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INVINCIBLE™



VOLUME EIGHTEEN

THE DEATH OF EVERYONE



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INVINCIBLE™

THE DEATH OF EVERYONE



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image®



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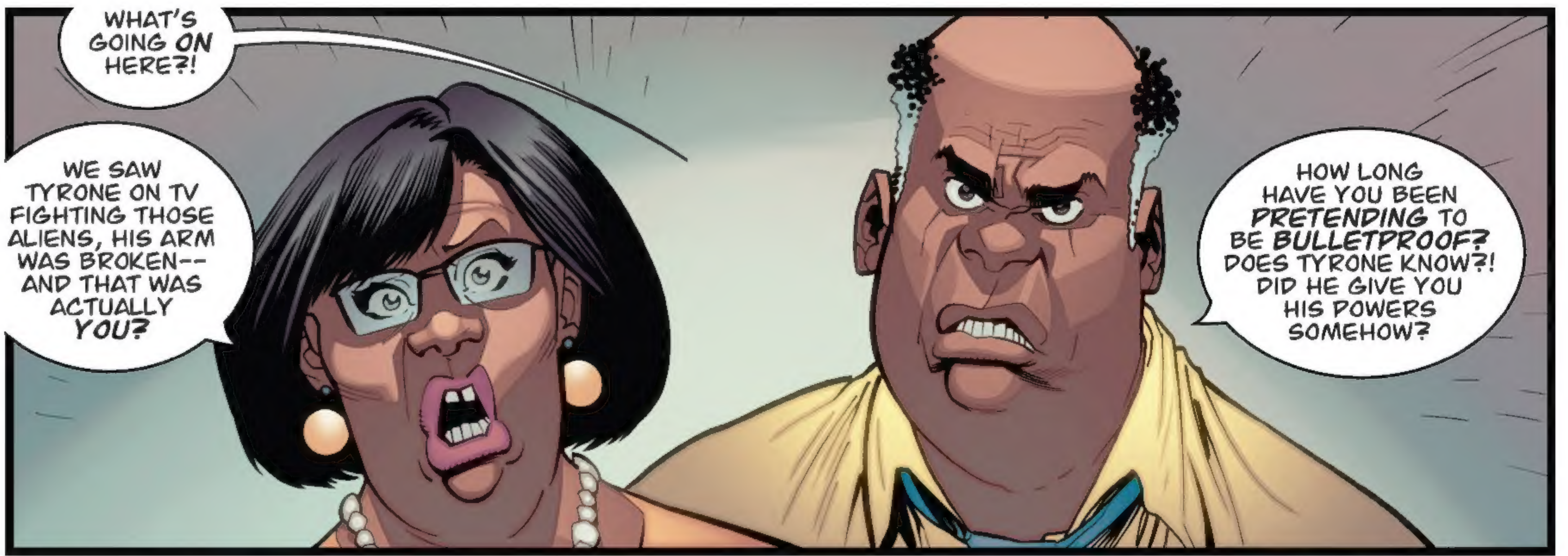
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CHAPTER ONE



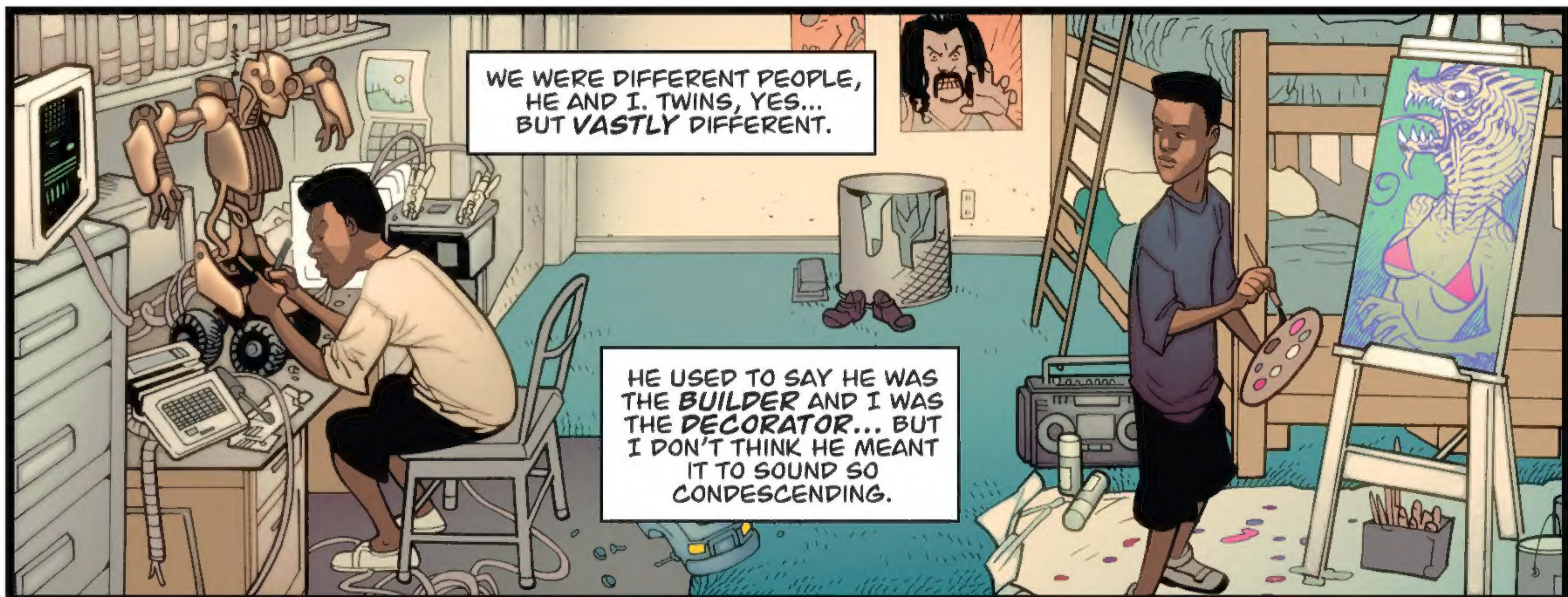
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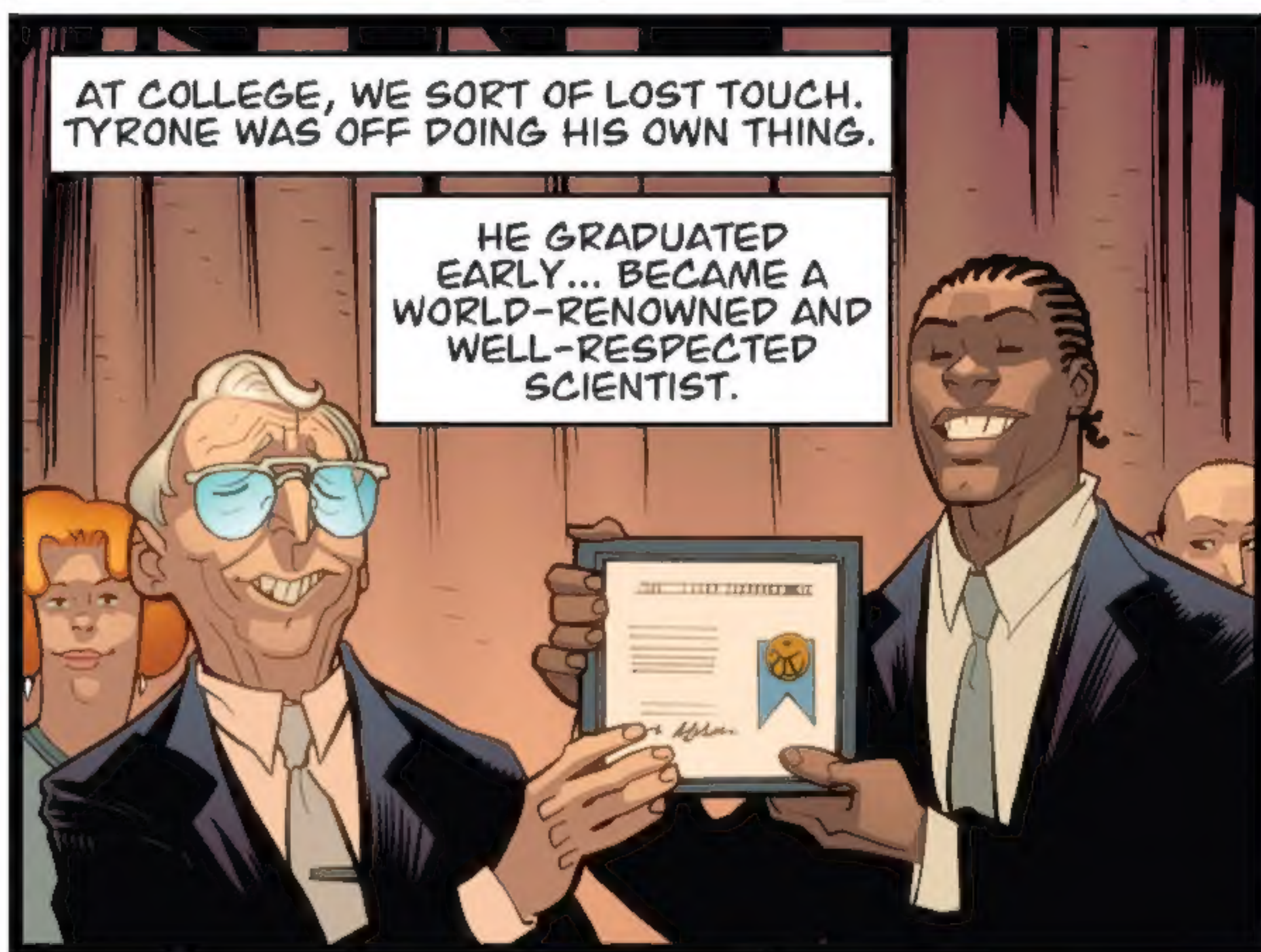
YOU GUYS HAVE NO IDEA HOW HARD IT WAS... GROWING UP IN TYRONE'S SHADOW.

HE WAS BRILLIANT... ALWAYS WAS. I DON'T DENY THAT.



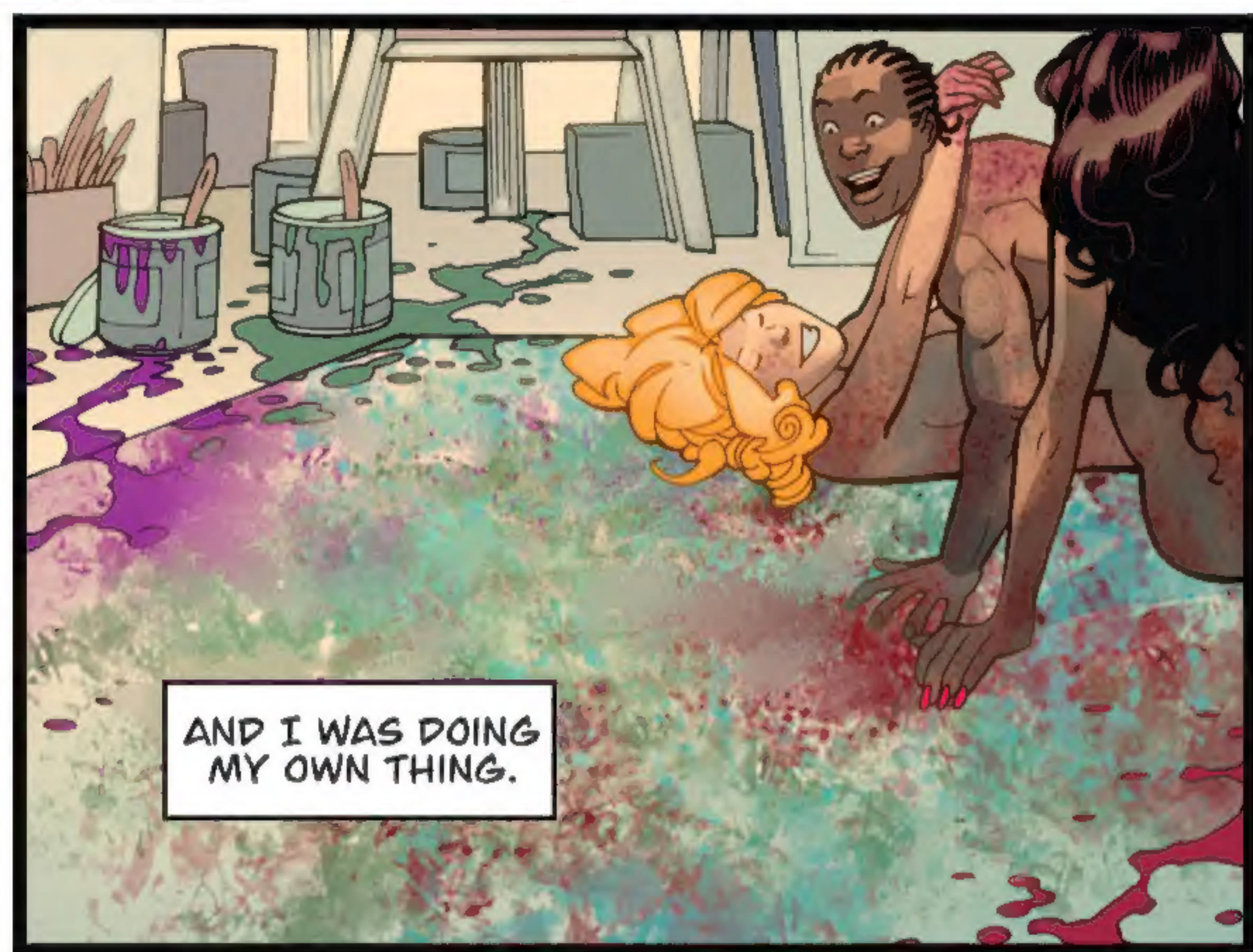
WE WERE DIFFERENT PEOPLE, HE AND I. TWINS, YES... BUT VASTLY DIFFERENT.

HE USED TO SAY HE WAS THE **BUILDER** AND I WAS THE **DECORATOR**... BUT I DON'T THINK HE MEANT IT TO SOUND SO CONDESCENDING.

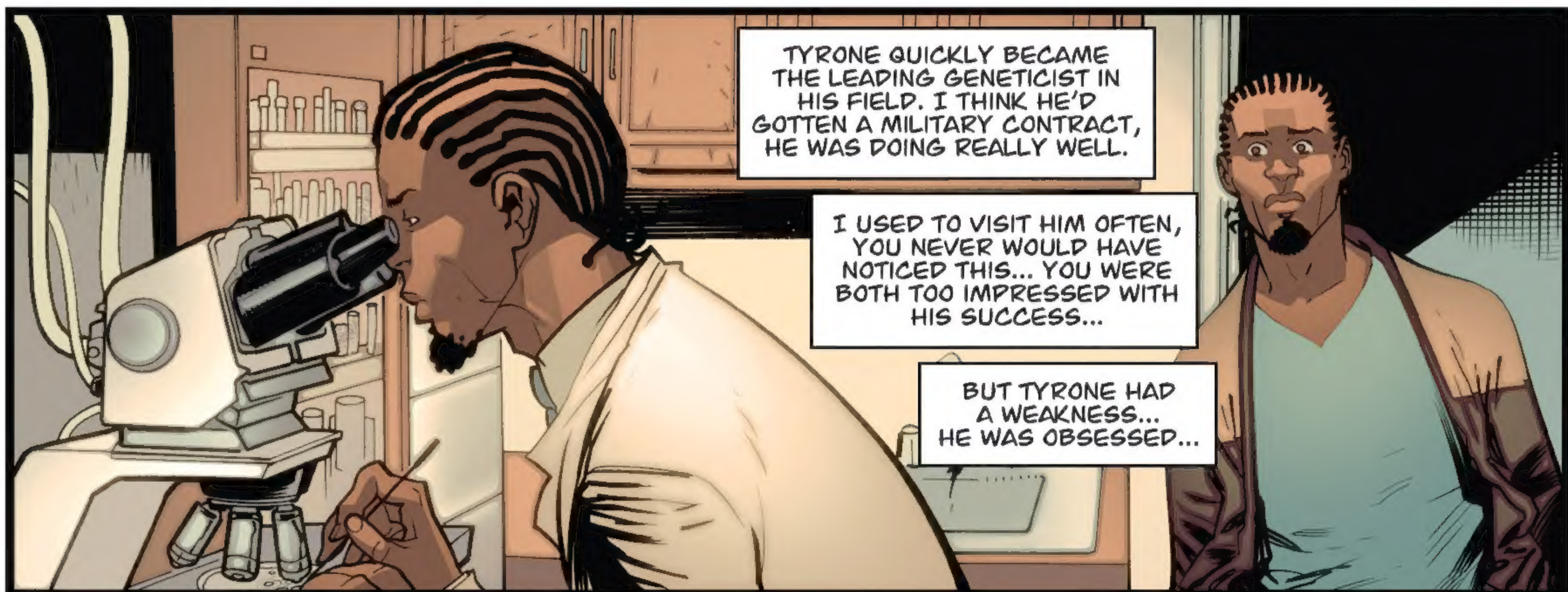


AT COLLEGE, WE SORT OF LOST TOUCH. TYRONE WAS OFF DOING HIS OWN THING.

HE GRADUATED EARLY... BECAME A WORLD-RENOUNDED AND WELL-RESPECTED SCIENTIST.



AND I WAS DOING MY OWN THING.



TYRONE QUICKLY BECAME THE LEADING GENETICIST IN HIS FIELD. I THINK HE'D GOTTEN A MILITARY CONTRACT, HE WAS DOING REALLY WELL.

I USED TO VISIT HIM OFTEN, YOU NEVER WOULD HAVE NOTICED THIS... YOU WERE BOTH TOO IMPRESSED WITH HIS SUCCESS...

BUT TYRONE HAD A WEAKNESS... HE WAS OBSESSED...



...WITH **SUPER POWERS**.

HE WAS SPENDING EVERY WAKING MOMENT STUDYING SUPER HEROES AND VILLAINS, TRYING TO DETERMINE THE SOURCE OF THEIR POWERS, SO THAT HE COULD **RECREATE THEM**.



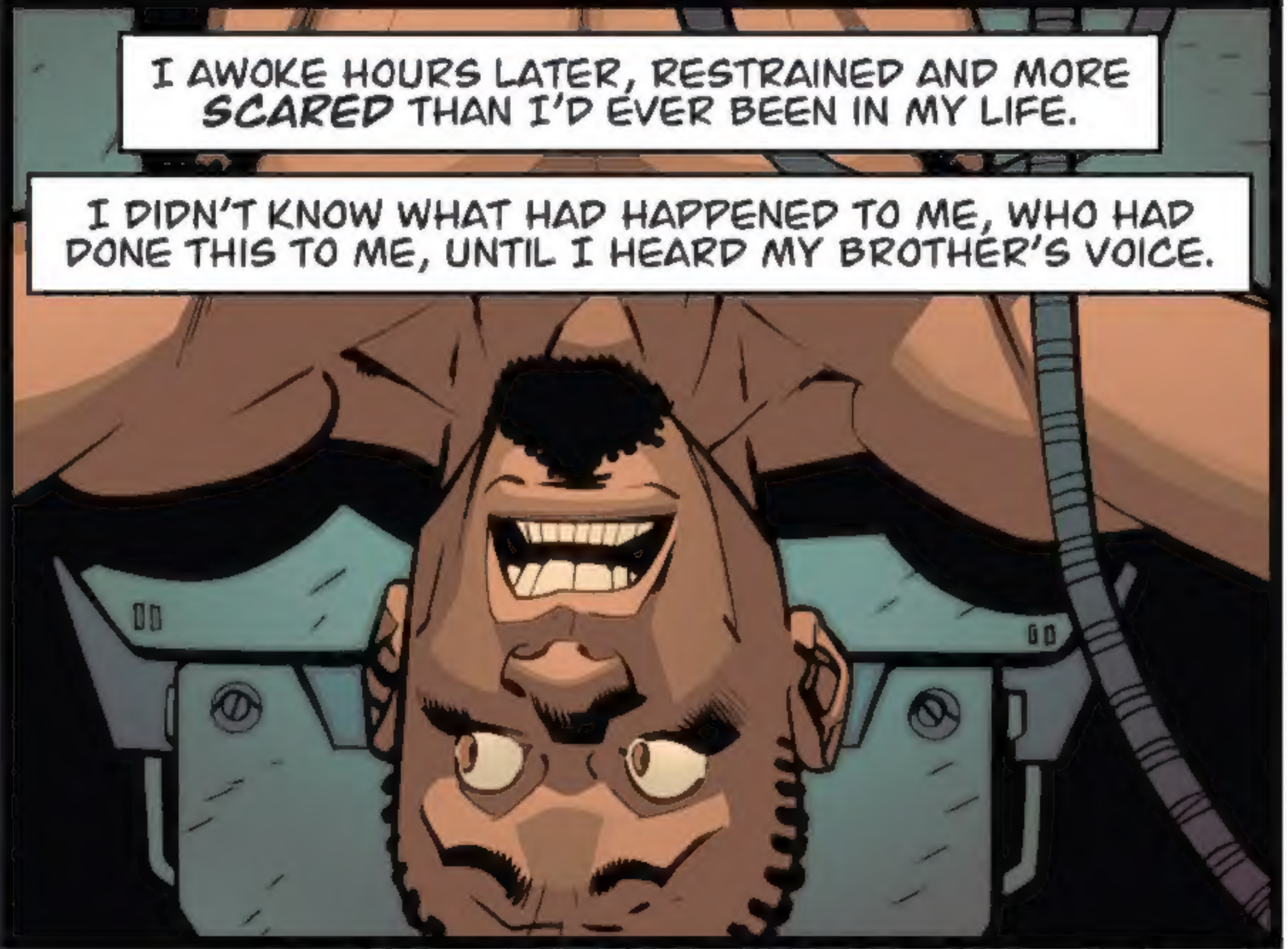
I NEVER REALIZED HOW OBSESSED HE'D BECOME, HOW FAR HE WAS WILLING TO GO, OR HOW MUCH HE ALLOWED HIS QUEST TO CHANGE HIM.

UNTIL ONE NIGHT WHEN WE WERE HAVING DINNER TOGETHER AT HIS HOUSE... ALL HE COULD TALK ABOUT WAS HOW CLOSE HE'D GOTTEN.



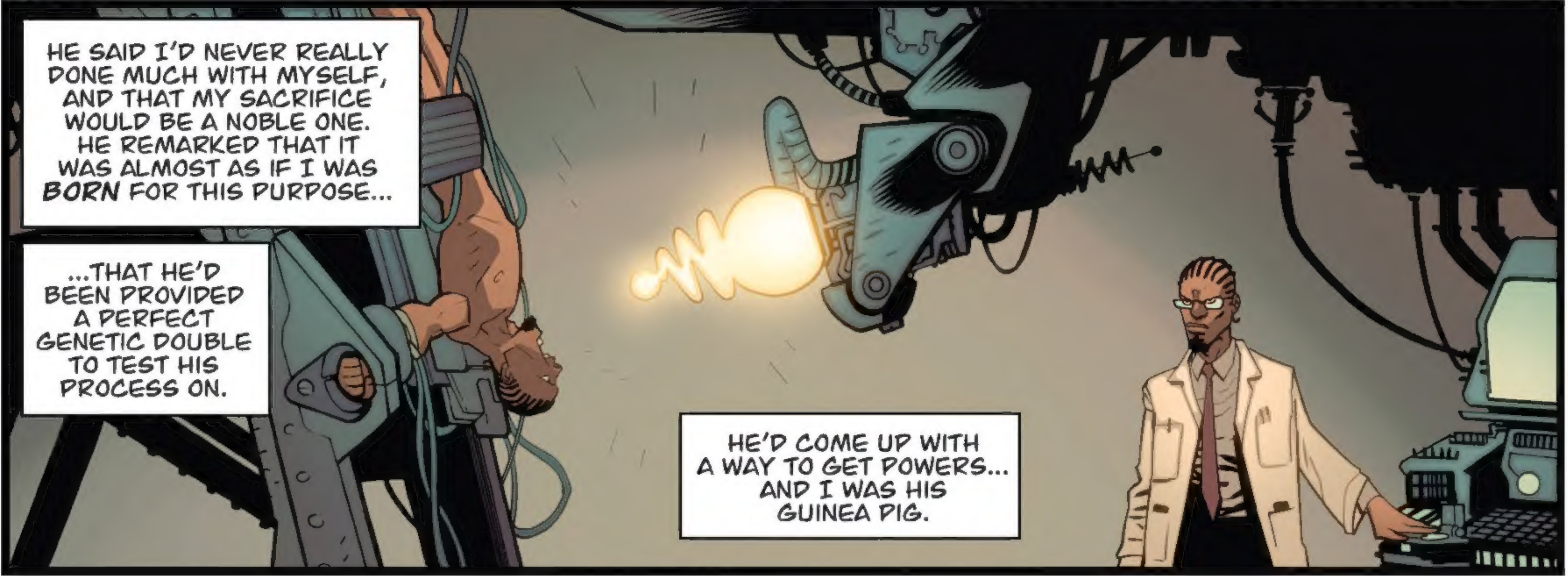
THE LAST THING I REMEMBER FROM THAT NIGHT WAS HIM TELLING ME I WAS A BIG PART OF HIS PLAN...

...AND THEN FEELING A LITTLE WOZZY.



I AWOKE HOURS LATER, RESTRAINED AND MORE **SCARED** THAN I'D EVER BEEN IN MY LIFE.

I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO ME, WHO HAD DONE THIS TO ME, UNTIL I HEARD MY BROTHER'S VOICE.



HE SAID I'D NEVER REALLY DONE MUCH WITH MYSELF, AND THAT MY SACRIFICE WOULD BE A NOBLE ONE. HE REMARKED THAT IT WAS ALMOST AS IF I WAS **BORN FOR THIS PURPOSE...**

...THAT HE'D BEEN PROVIDED A PERFECT GENETIC DOUBLE TO TEST HIS PROCESS ON.

HE'D COME UP WITH A WAY TO GET POWERS... AND I WAS HIS **GUINEA PIG**.

IT DIDN'T WORK
OUT AS PLANNED.



HIS PROCESS
SUCCEEDED... IT
GAVE ME POWERS.

BUT IT
KILLED
HIM.



I'D JUST LOST MY BROTHER,
DESPITE WHAT HE'D DONE
TO ME... I WAS DISTRAUGHT.

I DIDN'T KNOW
WHAT TO DO.



HIS REMAINS WERE DESTROYED.
I THOUGHT IF I TOLD ANYONE...
THEY WOULDN'T BELIEVE ME.

I JUST...
PRETENDED
IT HADN'T
HAPPENED.





MOM... DAD... YOU LOVED HIM SO MUCH. SO MUCH MORE THAN ME. I COULDN'T BRING MYSELF TO TELL YOU WHAT HE'D DONE.

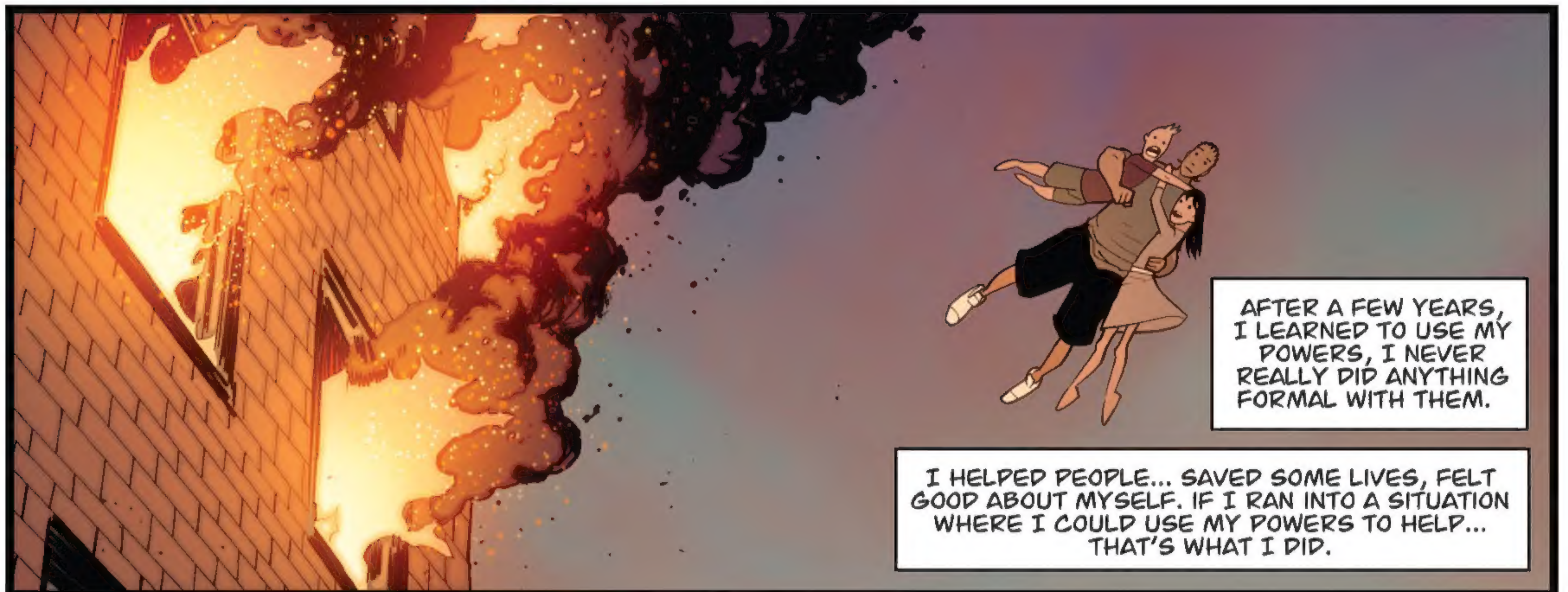
SO I PRETENDED TO BE HIM.

HE'D SPENT SO MUCH TIME AWAY FROM YOU, LOST IN WORK... THAT IT WASN'T HARD TO CONVINCE YOU.



I KNEW IT WASN'T RIGHT. I KNEW I SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE IT.

BUT I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT ELSE TO DO.



AFTER A FEW YEARS, I LEARNED TO USE MY POWERS, I NEVER REALLY DID ANYTHING FORMAL WITH THEM.

I HELPED PEOPLE... SAVED SOME LIVES, FELT GOOD ABOUT MYSELF. IF I RAN INTO A SITUATION WHERE I COULD USE MY POWERS TO HELP... THAT'S WHAT I DID.



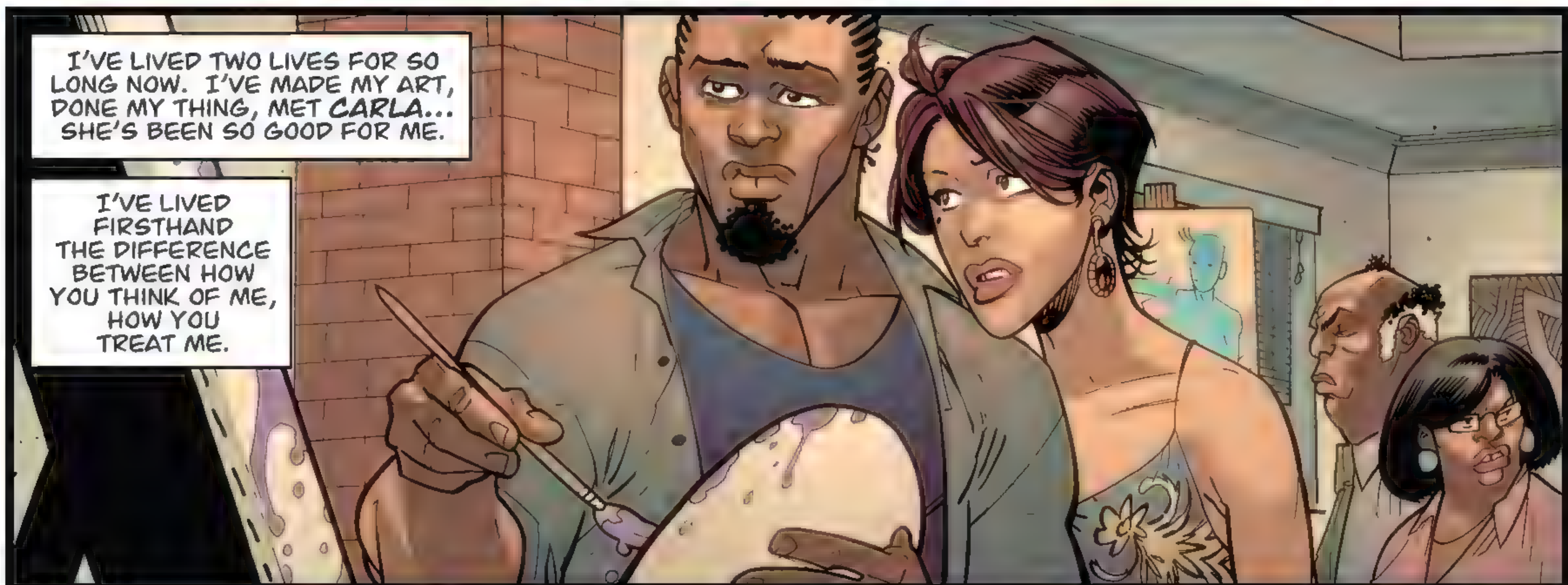
IT WAS A LONG TIME BEFORE I BECAME BULLETPROOF.

BEFORE I REALIZED HOW MUCH GOOD I COULD DO WITH THESE POWERS I WAS GIVEN.



I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE MORE BELIEVABLE IF I TOLD YOU TYRONE HAD BECOME BULLETPROOF.

IT WOULD ALSO GIVE YOU ANOTHER REASON TO THINK HE WAS ALWAYS BUSY, SO YOU DIDN'T SEE HIM MUCH.



I'VE LIVED TWO LIVES FOR SO LONG NOW. I'VE MADE MY ART, DONE MY THING, MET CARLA... SHE'S BEEN SO GOOD FOR ME.

I'VE LIVED FIRSTHAND THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HOW YOU THINK OF ME, HOW YOU TREAT ME.



AND HOW YOU TREAT TYRONE.

THAT LOVE, THAT CARE... THE TIME WE SPENT TOGETHER WHEN YOU THOUGHT I WAS HIM.

IT WAS ALL I EVER WANTED.



I COULD NEVER BRING MYSELF TO TELL YOU... WHAT THE SON YOU LOVED HAD BECOME.

HOW HE'D KIDNAPPED ME, TRIED TO KILL ME, AND HAD BEEN KILLED IN THE PROCESS. I KNEW HOW MUCH HE MEANT TO YOU.

I'M SO SORRY.



YOU COULDN'T TELL ME BECAUSE IT'S ALL LIES!

IF TYRONE IS DEAD-- YOU EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE IT WAS AN ACCIDENT--CAUSED BY HIM?!

YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN JEALOUS OF HIM! YOU KILLED YOUR OWN BROTHER!



WHAT?! NO!

DAD, PLEASE-- YOU HAVE TO BELIEVE ME. EVERYTHING I JUST TOLD YOU IS TRUE!

MOM?



TYRONE IS DEAD-- AND YOU KILLED HIM!



DON'T SAY THAT. I LOVED TYRONE! I WOULD HAVE NEVER--

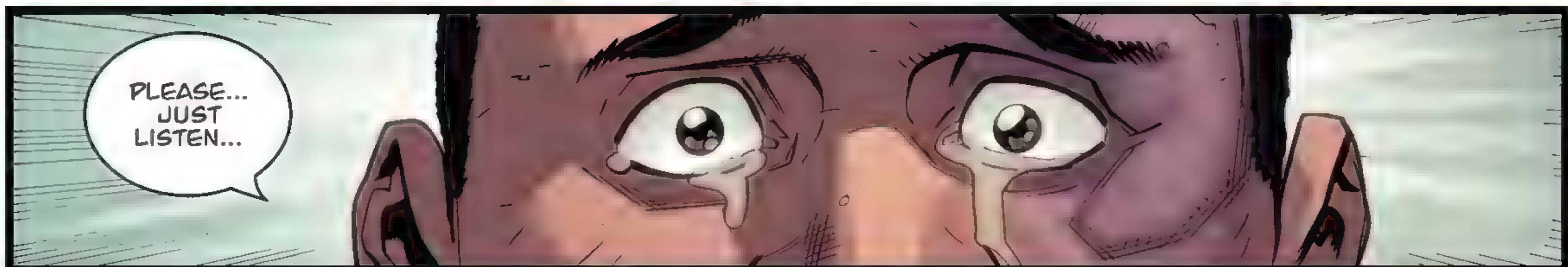
HE DID THIS TO ME, HE CAUSED THIS--ALL OF IT!

HE WAS... EVIL.

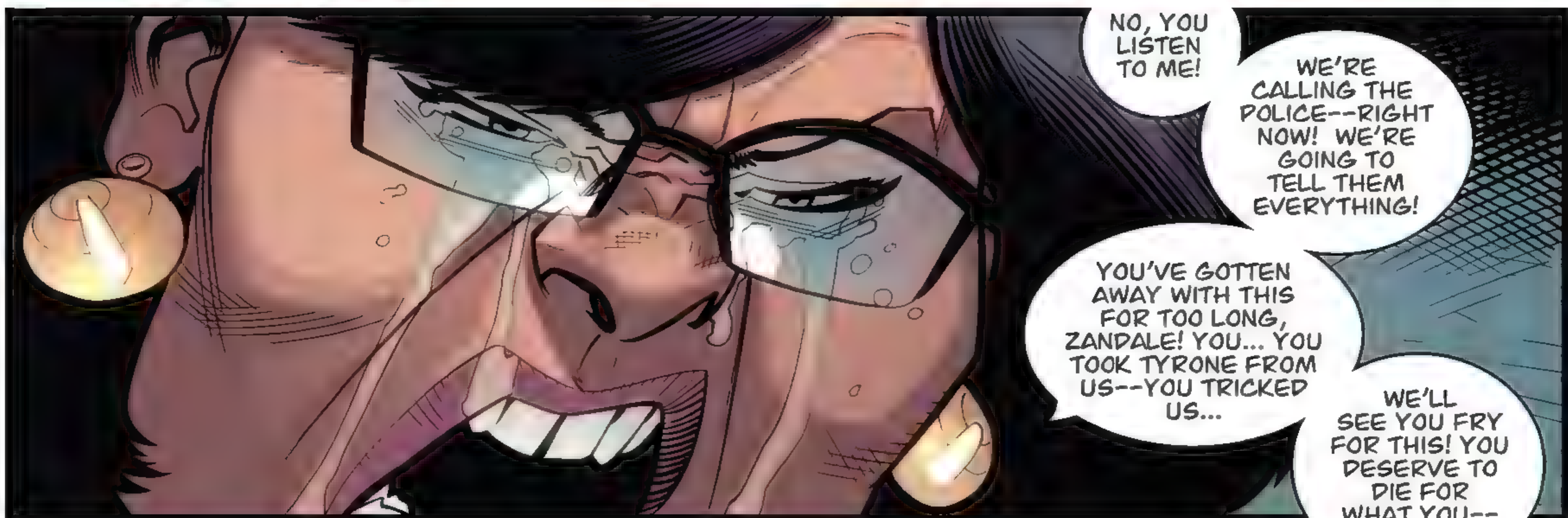


DON'T TALK ABOUT YOUR BROTHER THAT WAY! NOT AFTER WHAT YOU'VE DONE!

THIS IS KILLING YOUR MOTHER! JUST LOOK AT HER!



PLEASE... JUST LISTEN...

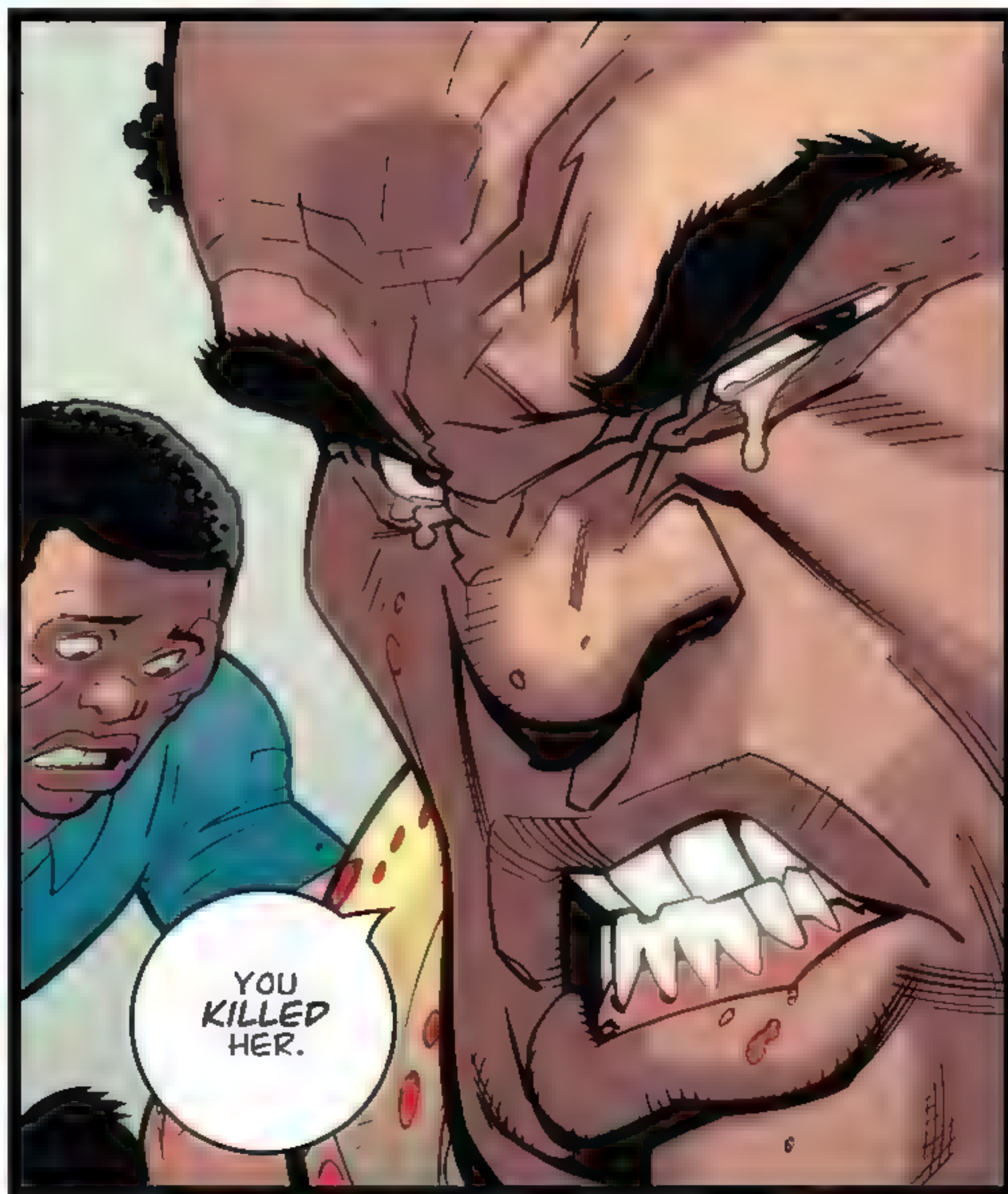
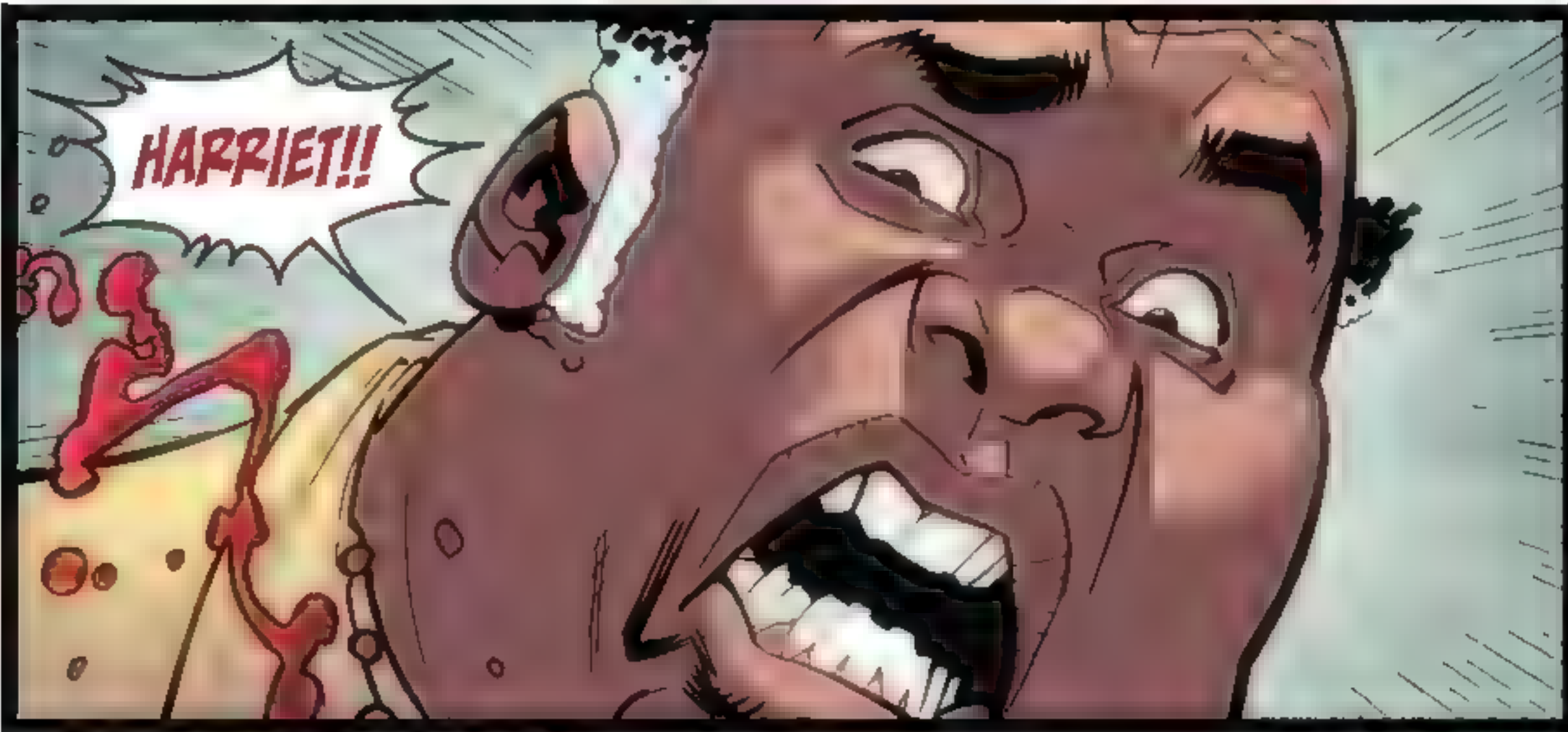


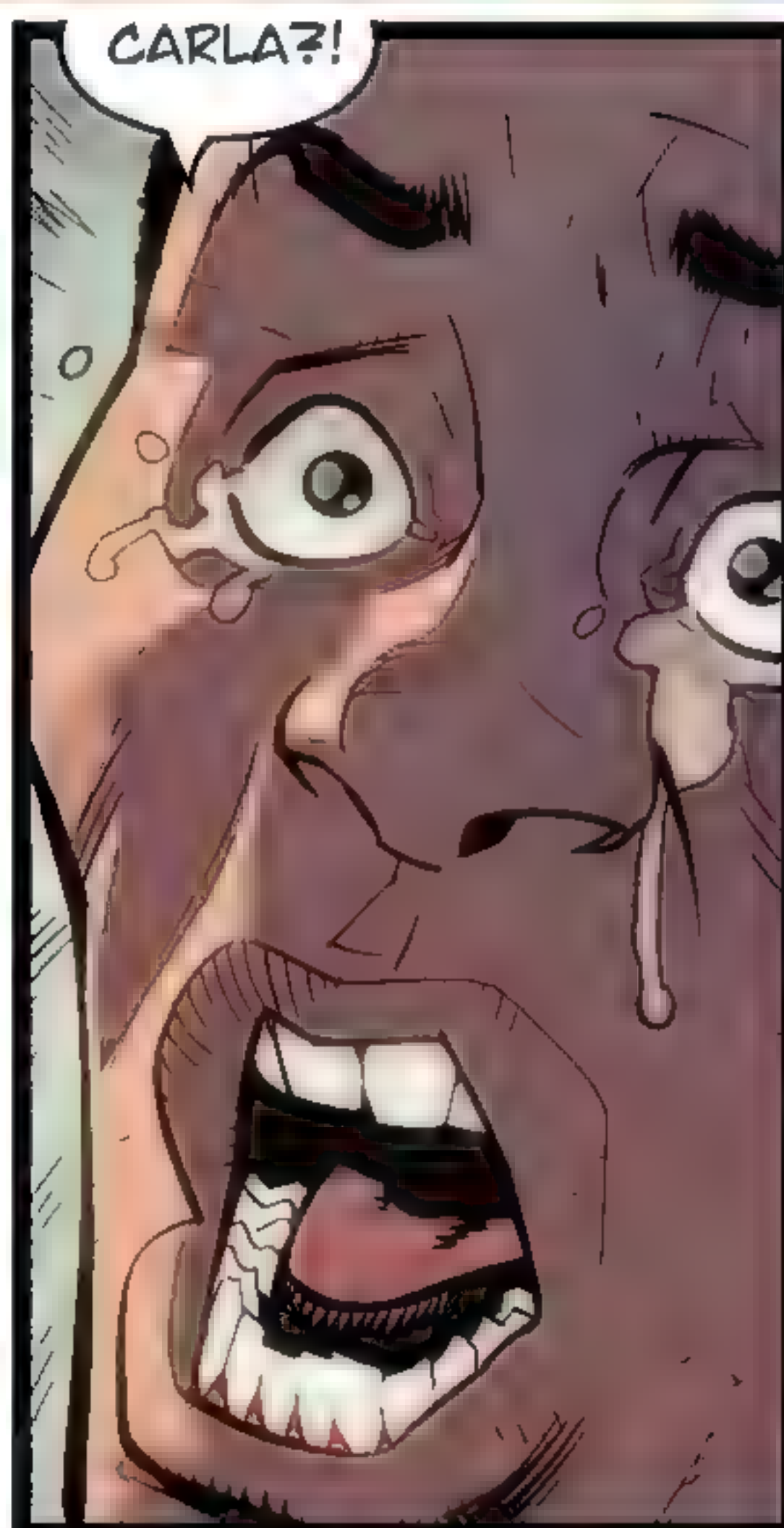
NO, YOU LISTEN TO ME!

WE'RE CALLING THE POLICE--RIGHT NOW! WE'RE GOING TO TELL THEM EVERYTHING!

YOU'VE GOTTEN AWAY WITH THIS FOR TOO LONG, ZANDALE! YOU... YOU TOOK TYRONE FROM US--YOU TRICKED US...

WE'LL SEE YOU FRY FOR THIS! YOU DESERVE TO DIE FOR WHAT YOU--







HEAVY
HANDED?
JARRING? OVERLY
DARK? HELL, OUT OF
PLACE EVEN. ALL OF
THE ABOVE. I
COMPLETELY
AGREE.

IT'S A LOT OF
THINGS AT WORK
REALLY. I **CREATED**
THE BOOK, I OWN THE
BOOK, I CAN DO WHAT I
WANT, INCLUDING CRAZY
THINGS THAT I'D NEVER BE
ALLOWED TO DO ON A
CORPORATE COMIC BOOK.
THAT LEADS TO CRAZY
THINGS SOMETIMES... IT
MAKES ME WANT TO
SPREAD MY WINGS
FROM TIME TO
TIME, SO TO
SPEAK.

THE OTHER
THING IS WE
WERE RAMPING
UP TO OUR
ONE-HUNDREDTH
ISSUE. YOU GET TO
THAT POINT AND YOU
KIND OF WANT TO
SHAKE THINGS UP...
DO SOMETHING, I
DON'T KNOW...
SHOCKING.

DID I RUN THE
RISK OF ALIENATING
READERS? **OF
COURSE.** THE ONLY
THING YOU CAN DO IS TRY
AND GET BACK TO THE
LIGHT-HEARTED TONE OF THE
BOOK AS **QUICKLY** AS
POSSIBLE TO REMIND
READERS THAT IT'S NOT AN
OVERALL CHANGE, SOME
KIND OF NEW STATUS
QUO--IT WAS JUST AN,
I DON'T KNOW...

INTRIGUING
INTERLUDE.

I FIGURED
IF I CONVINCED
THEM OF THAT, I
WOULDN'T LOSE
ANY READERS.

Booth boy

Holds sharpies etc..

EXHIBITOR

Phillip Schaff

Science dog Creator

EXHIBITOR

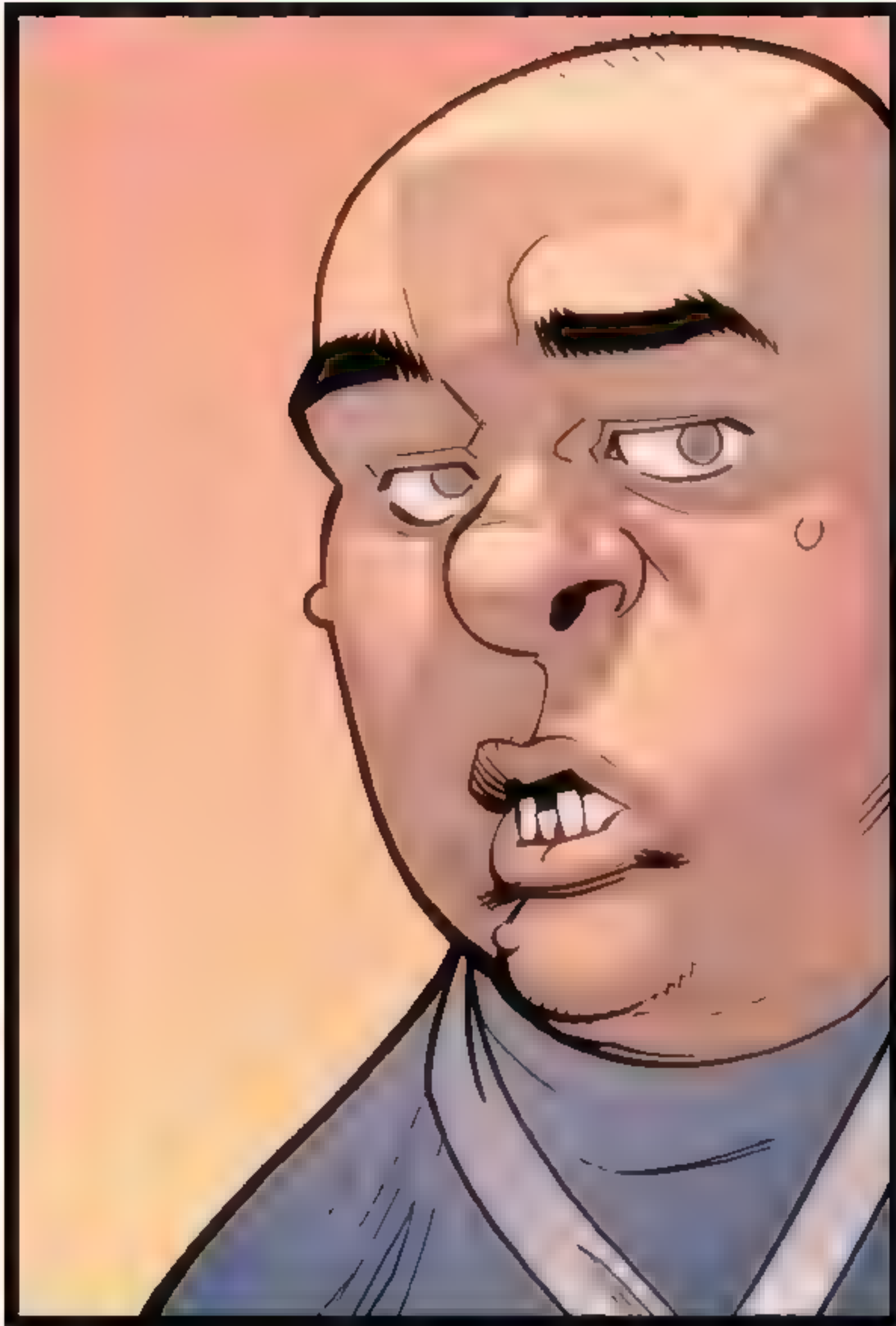
ZOMBIES SUCK

THE DEATH OF...

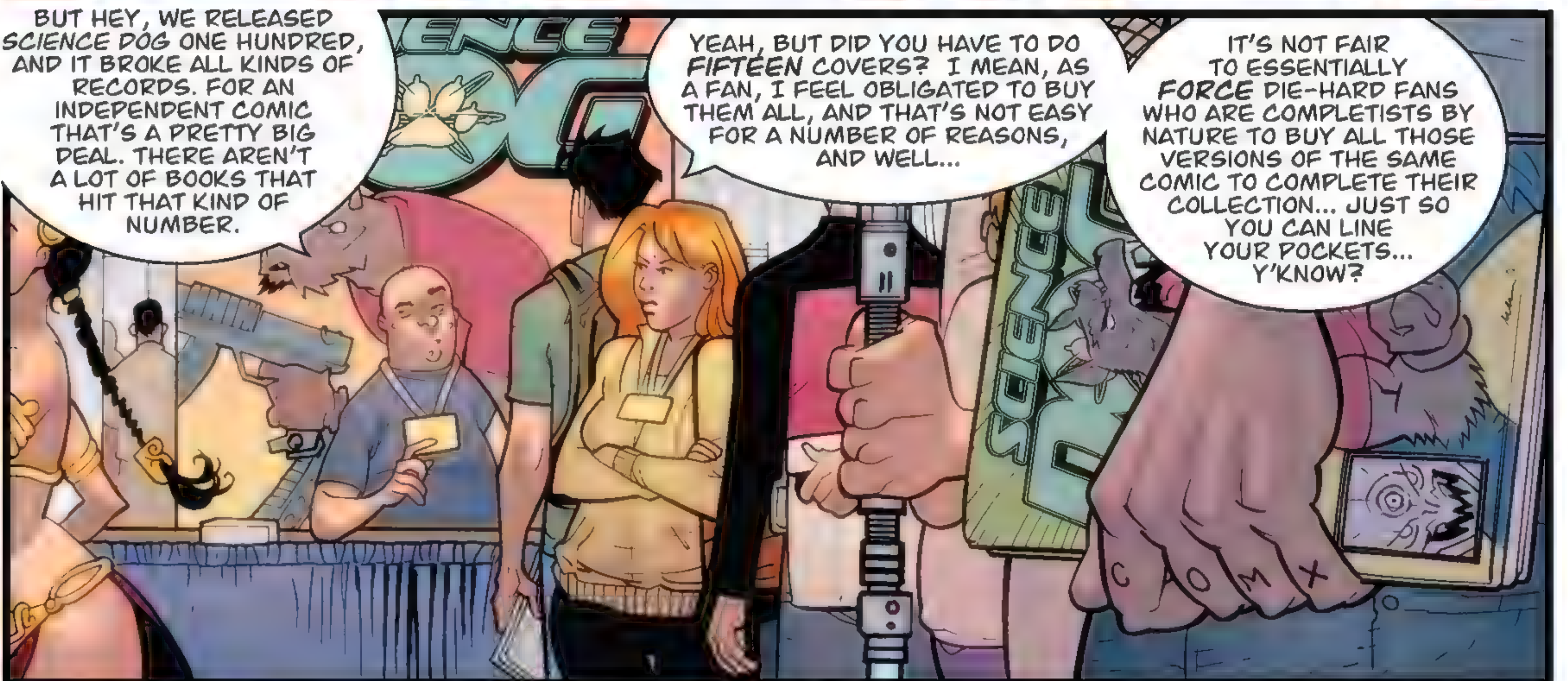


THAT'S ALL VERY INTERESTING, MR. SCHAFF.

DID IT WORK?



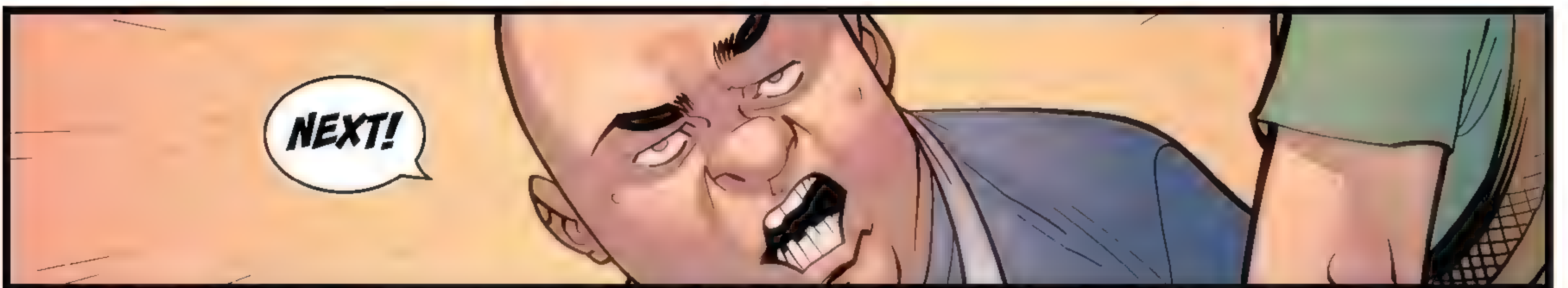
NOT REALLY.



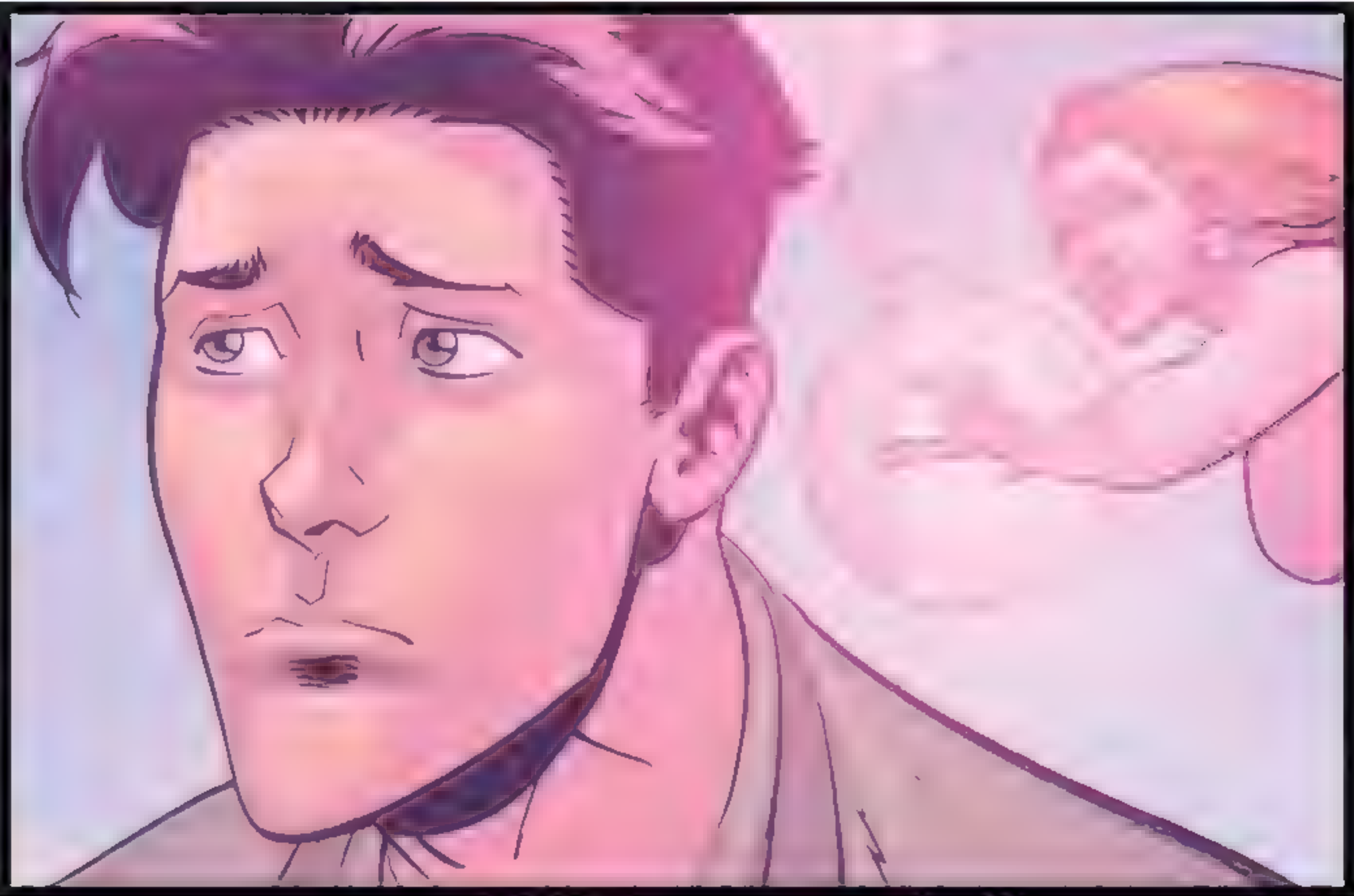
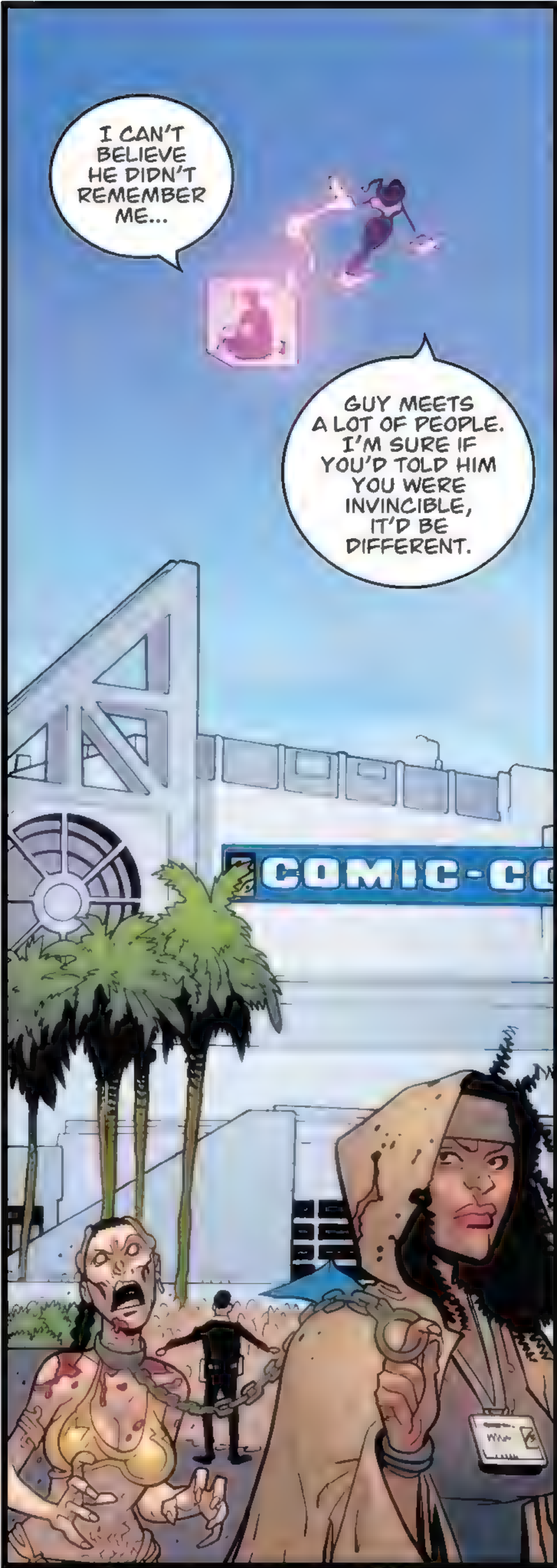
BUT HEY, WE RELEASED SCIENCE DOG ONE HUNDRED, AND IT BROKE ALL KINDS OF RECORDS. FOR AN INDEPENDENT COMIC THAT'S A PRETTY BIG DEAL. THERE AREN'T A LOT OF BOOKS THAT HIT THAT KIND OF NUMBER.

YEAH, BUT DID YOU HAVE TO DO FIFTEEN COVERS? I MEAN, AS A FAN, I FEEL OBLIGATED TO BUY THEM ALL, AND THAT'S NOT EASY FOR A NUMBER OF REASONS, AND WELL...

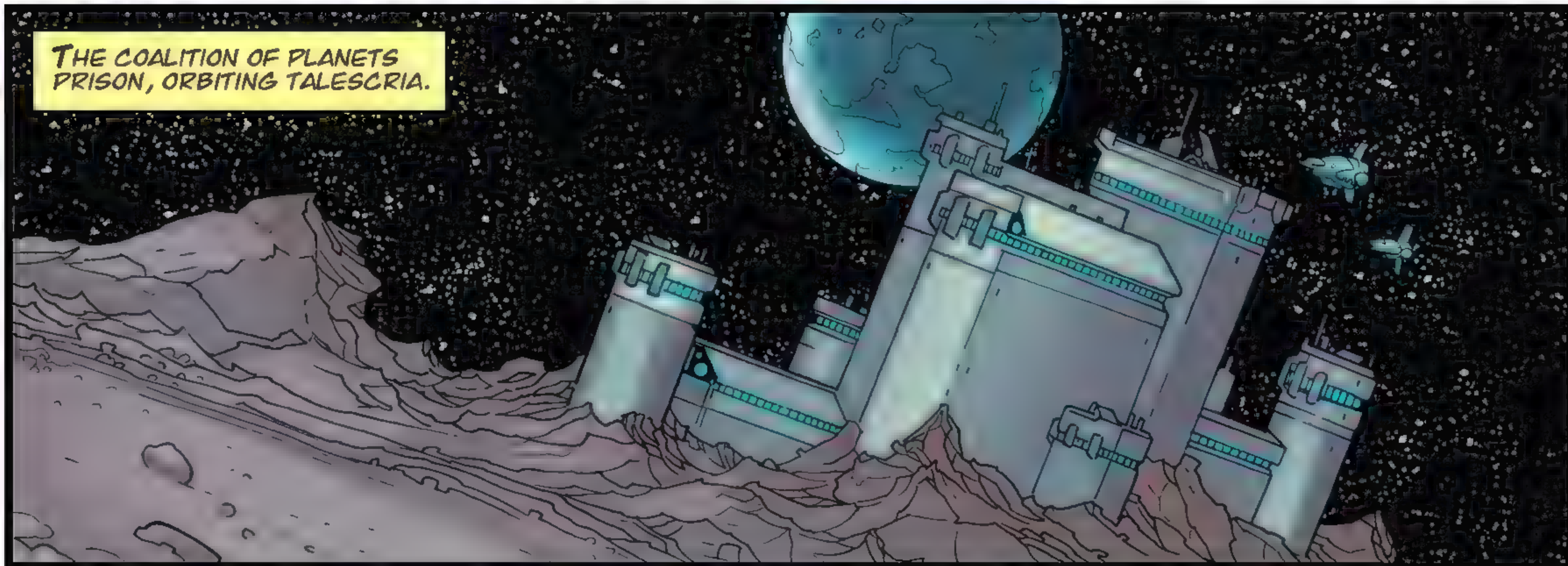
IT'S NOT FAIR TO ESSENTIALLY FORCE DIE-HARD FANS WHO ARE COMPLETISTS BY NATURE TO BUY ALL THOSE VERSIONS OF THE SAME COMIC TO COMPLETE THEIR COLLECTION... JUST SO YOU CAN LINE YOUR POCKETS... Y'KNOW?



NEXT!



THE COALITION OF PLANETS
PRISON, ORBITING TALESERIA.



IF MY SON
IS DEAD I
WILL FIND A
WAY OUT OF
HERE, AND I
WILL KILL
YOU.



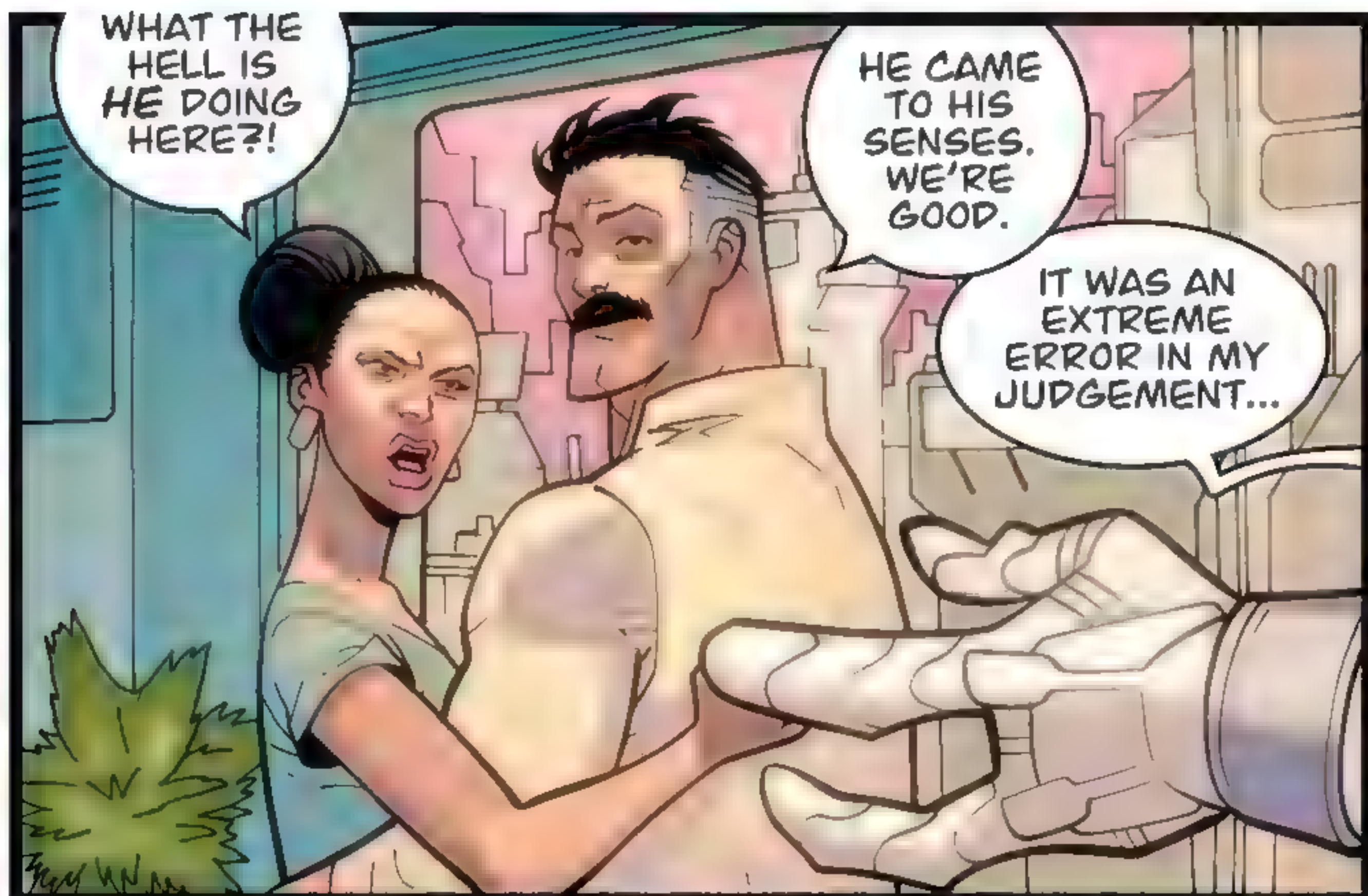
THE PRESSURE OF TAKING OVER
THE COALITION OF PLANETS WAS
IMMENSE. I WAS BEING PUSHED
IN ALL DIRECTIONS AND WHEN A
SOLUTION PRESENTED
ITSELF, I ACTED.

AND I
WAS MISTAKEN.
THANKFULLY, YOUR
SON WAS ABLE TO
PREVENT MY FOLLY--
WHAT WOULD HAVE
BEEN MY
GREATEST
MISTAKE.

I'M
TRULY
SORRY.

ALL
CHARGES
ARE BEING
DROPPED. YOU
ARE BEING
RELEASED.







HE'S A
GOOD KID,
THAT ONE.
DON'T HOLD
THIS
AGAINST
HIM.

OF COURSE NOT. HE
STANDS UP FOR HIS
BELIEFS, THAT'S
SOMETHING I'M PROUD
TO SEE IN BOTH OF
MY SONS.

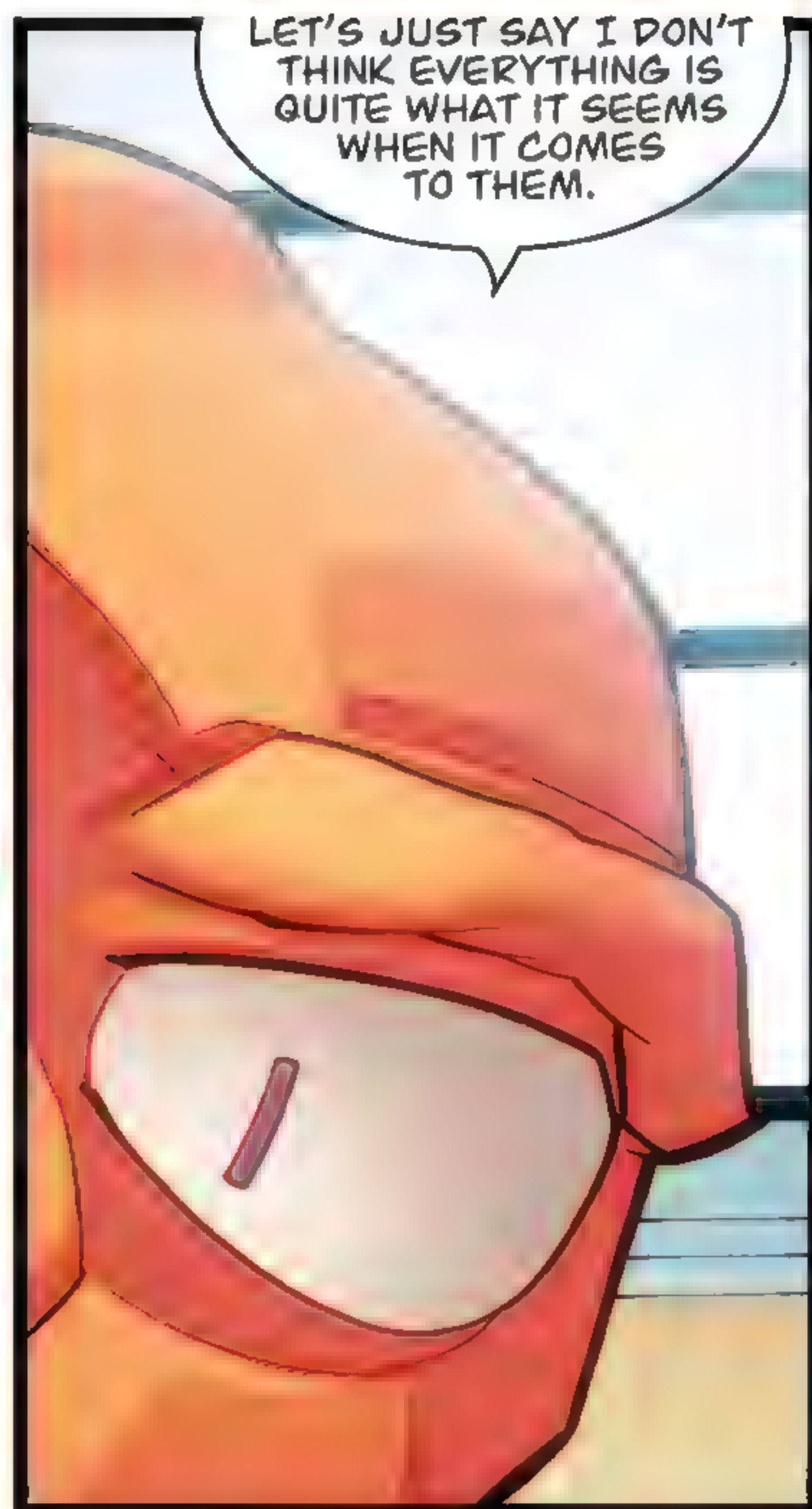


I REALLY NEED TO
TALK TO YOU ABOUT
THE VILTRUMITE
SITUATION ON
EARTH.

I DON'T
TRUST
THEM...



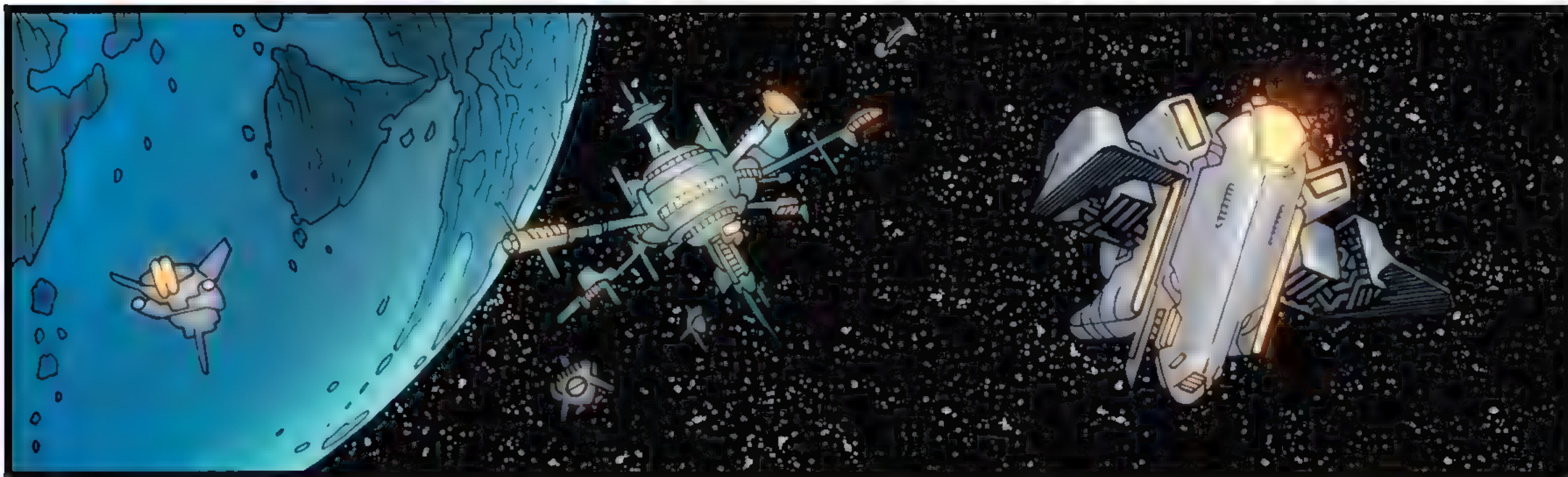
I DON'T KNOW THAT
I REALLY DO EITHER,
BUT DO YOU HAVE
ANY SPECIFIC
REASON?



LET'S JUST SAY I DON'T
THINK EVERYTHING IS
QUITE WHAT IT SEEMS
WHEN IT COMES
TO THEM.



IF YOU'RE
WILLING, I
HAVE A
MISSION FOR
YOU...



OLIVER...

HE'LL BE FINE. HE'S AN ADULT NOW, HE'LL WORK THROUGH IT.



WE'VE GOT QUITE THE JOURNEY AHEAD OF US.

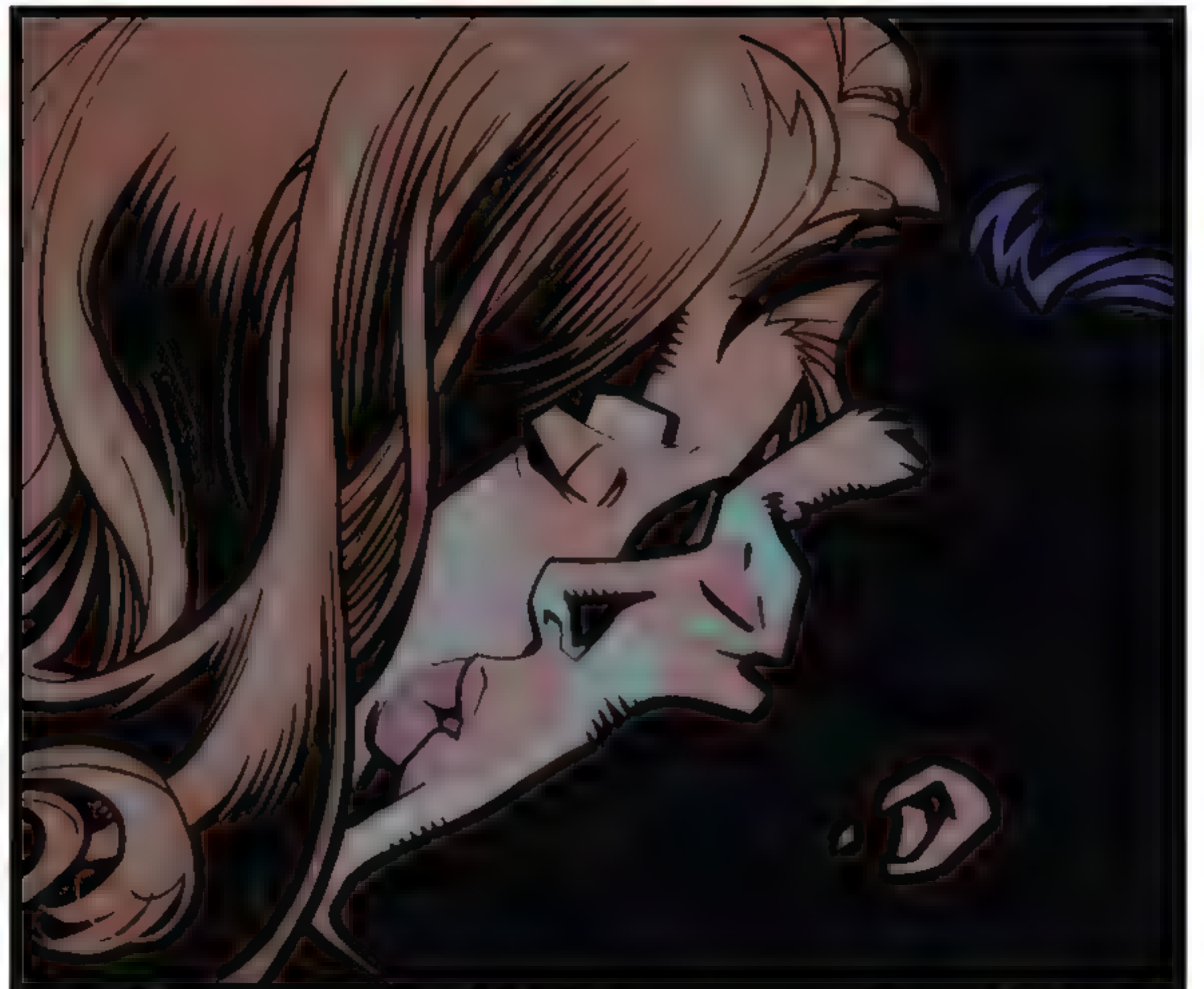
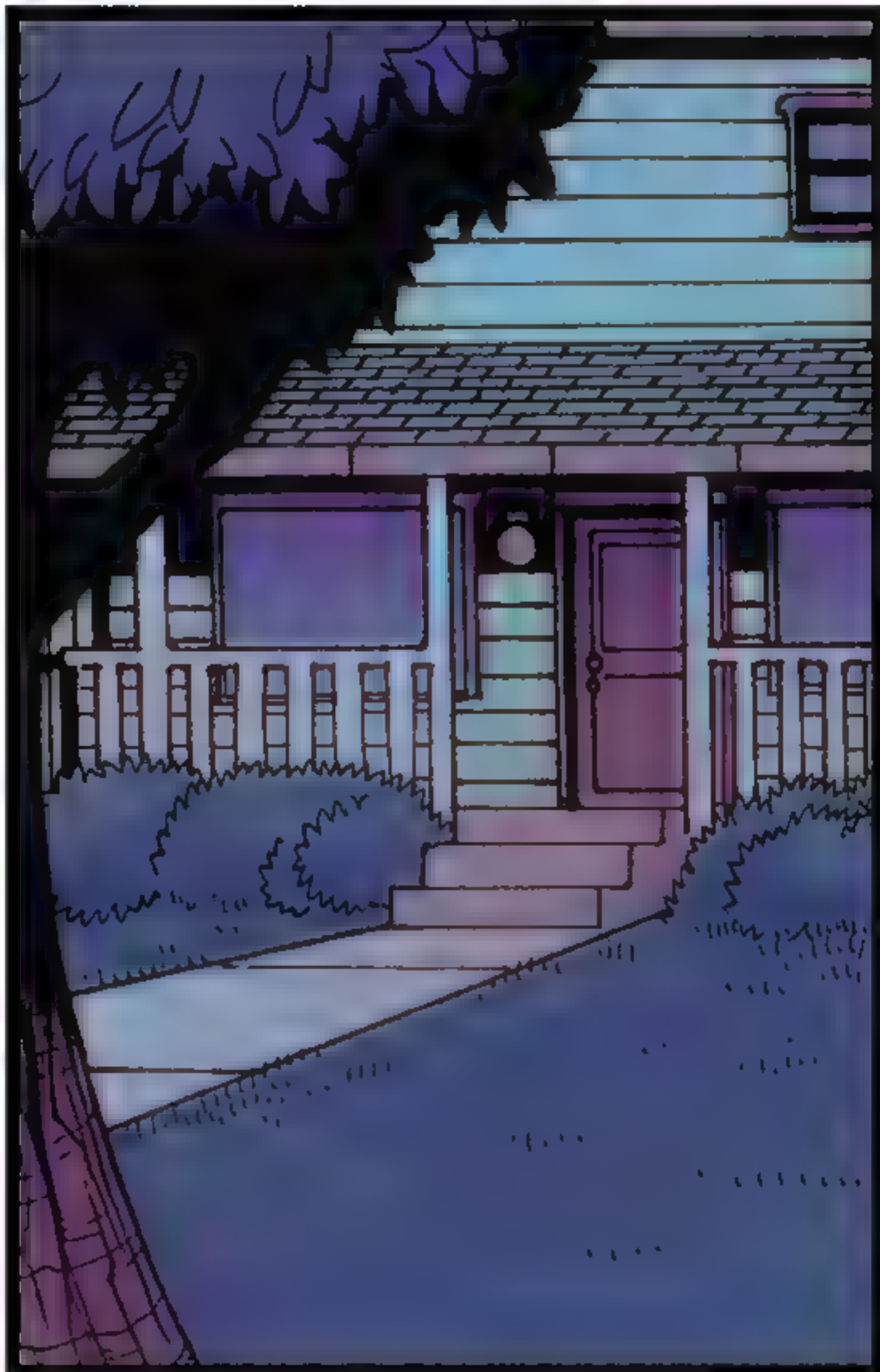
AND I'VE BEEN IN PRISON FOR A LONG TIME...

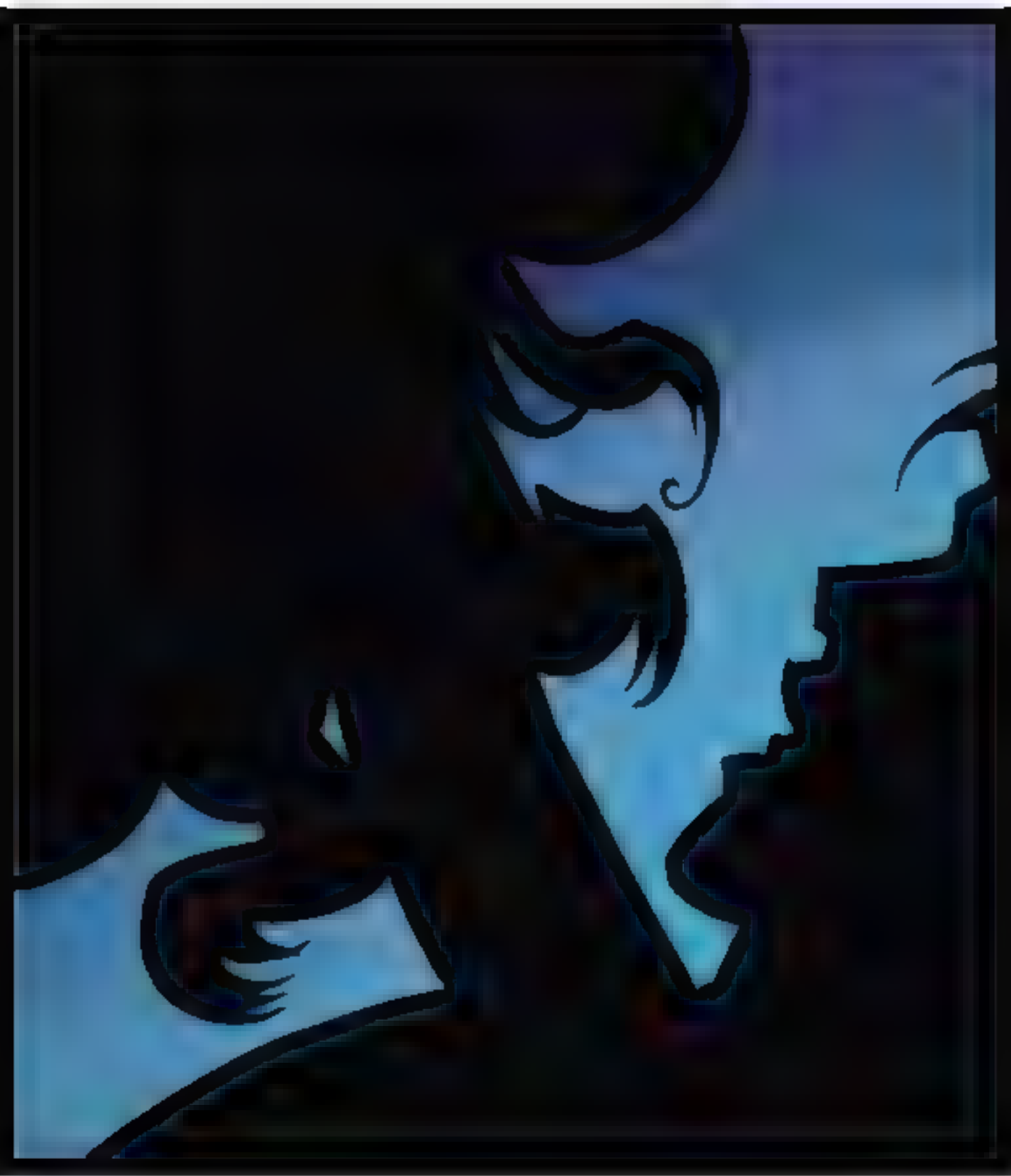


WE'LL BE IN OUR QUARTERS.

UGH.









MY
POWERS
ARE
BACK,
BABY!



CHAPTER TWO



RYAN



I WAS JUST TRYING TO HELP OUT. I HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND. EVE SEEMED LIKE SHE WAS IN A BIND, THE CLIENTS IN HER COMPANY WANTED INVINCIBLE... SO THAT'S WHAT I TRIED TO GIVE THEM.

I'M NOT GOING TO ACT LIKE I'VE GOT ANY CLAIM TO THE COSTUME OR NAME. YOU SAY THE WORD, IT'S YOURS.



THAT'S NOT WHAT THIS IS AT ALL. I CALLED YOU HERE TO SAY "KEEP IT." I'M NOT REALLY CONCERNING MYSELF WITH THE DAY TO DAY HERO STUFF SO MUCH ANYMORE.

I'M TRYING TO FOCUS MORE ON THE "BIGGER PICTURE."

HAVING YOU AROUND WILL HELP THAT. IT'LL FREE ME UP TO DO MORE GOOD.



YOU DON'T THINK THAT'LL CAUSE CONFUSION? THERE BEING TWO INVINCIBLES?

NAH. WHEN I WEAR THIS COSTUME MOST PEOPLE THINK I'M SOMEONE ELSE ANYWAY.

NEWS ALWAYS CALLED ME "INVINCIBLE BOY." IT WAS AWFUL.

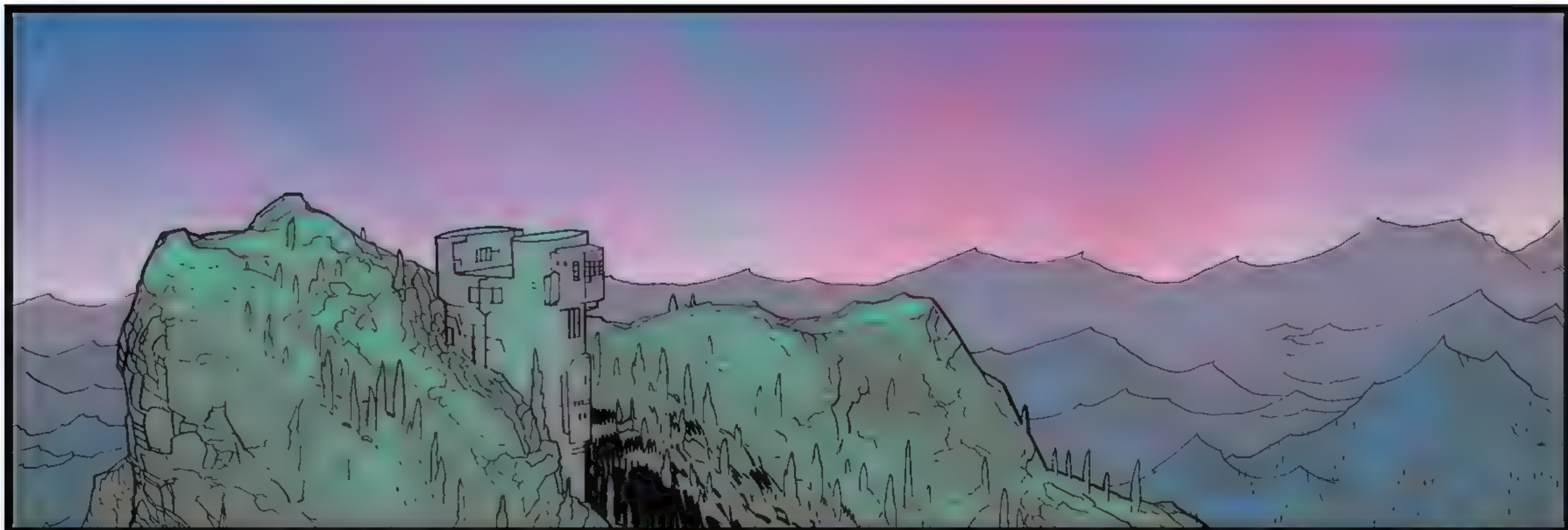


YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?



ABSOLUTELY.

ENJOY IT!



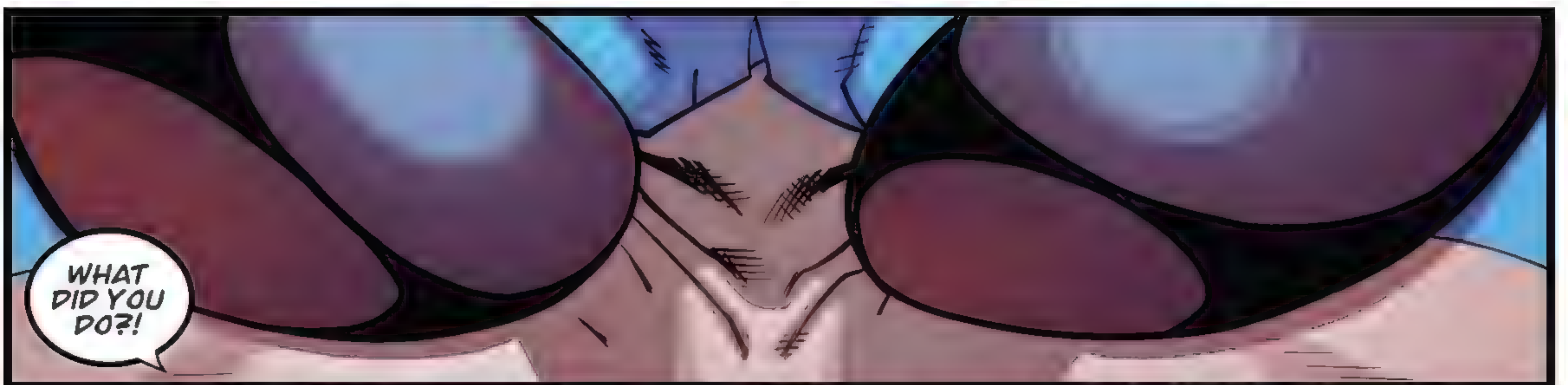




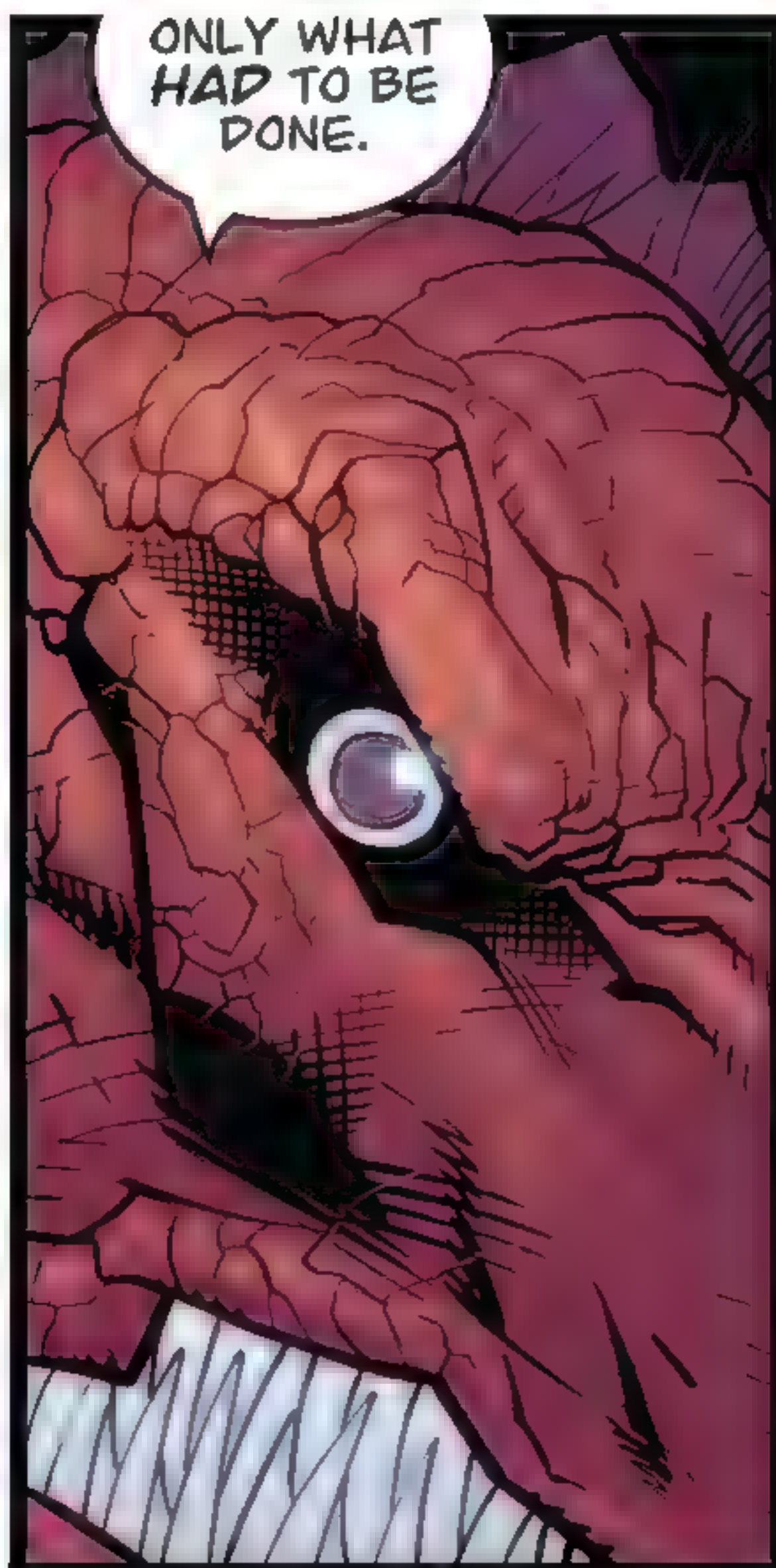
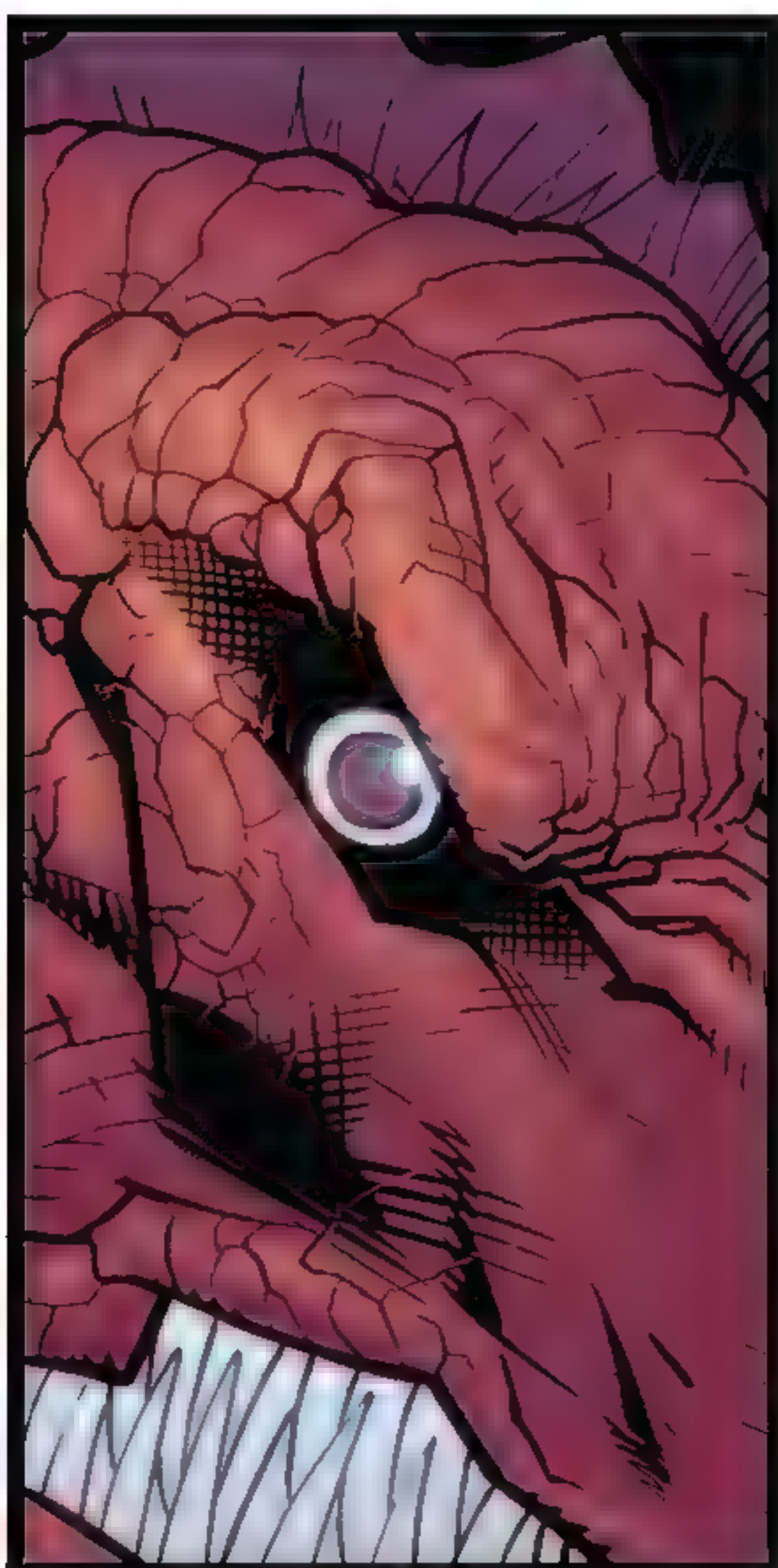
WE REACHED A TIPPING POINT... I DON'T KNOW HOW I DIDN'T SEE IT COMING **SOONER**. I'VE DONE THE MATH AND I'VE GOTTEN IT DOWN TO THE MINUTE... WE ARE A MATTER OF **WEEKS** AWAY FROM THE DISASTROUS CHANGES IN OUR CLIMATE NOT ONLY BEING IRREVERSIBLE... BUT **ACCELERATING**.

THE WORLD POPULATION WOULD BE CUT BY **EIGHTY PERCENT** OVER THE NEXT CENTURY DUE TO WORLDWIDE FAMINE AND DROUGHT... OUR SPECIES WOULD FACE **EXTINCTION**.

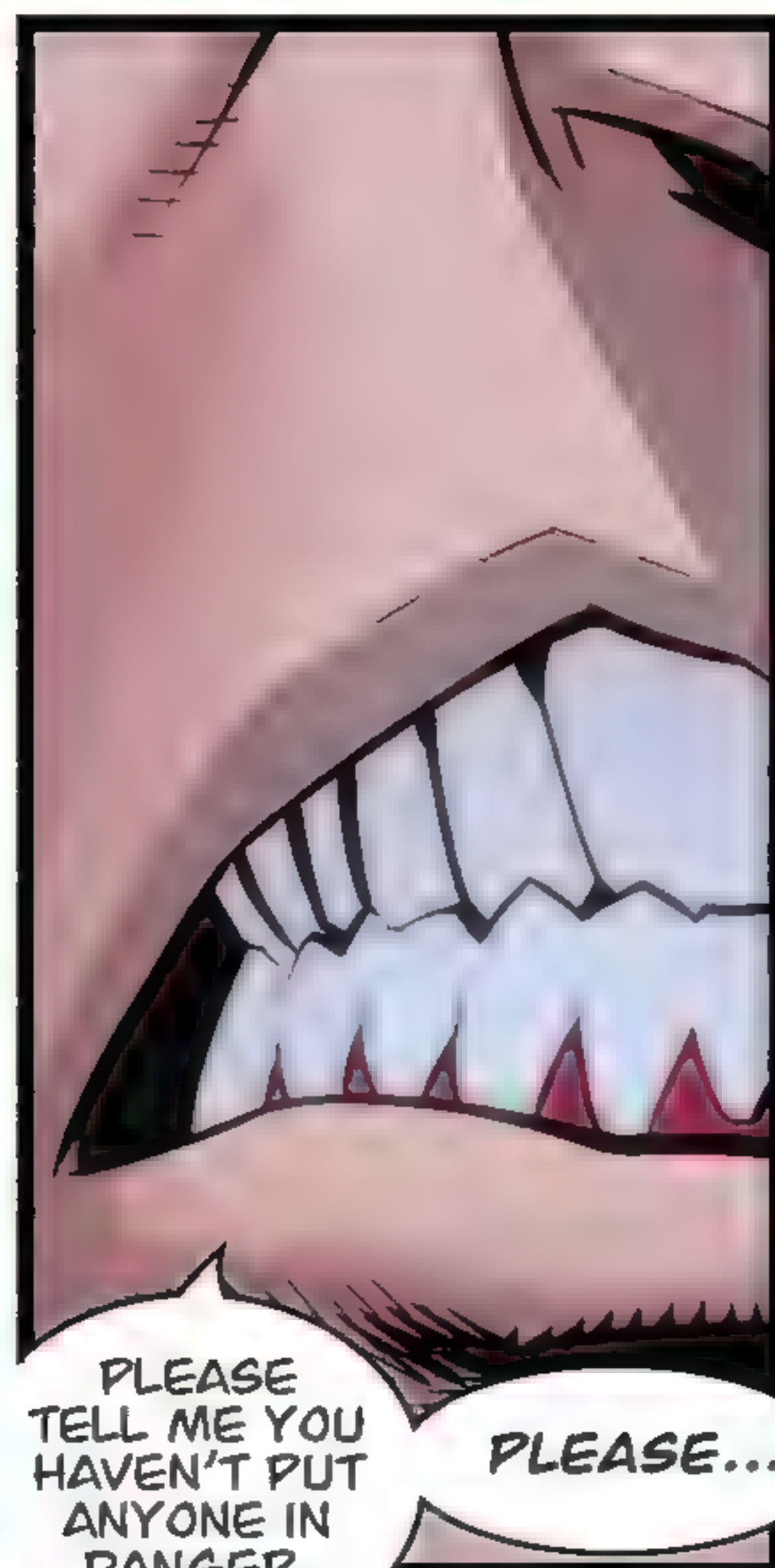
THERE WAS NO TIME, I COULDN'T WAIT TO SPEAK TO YOU, I HAD TO ACT.



WHAT DID YOU DO?!

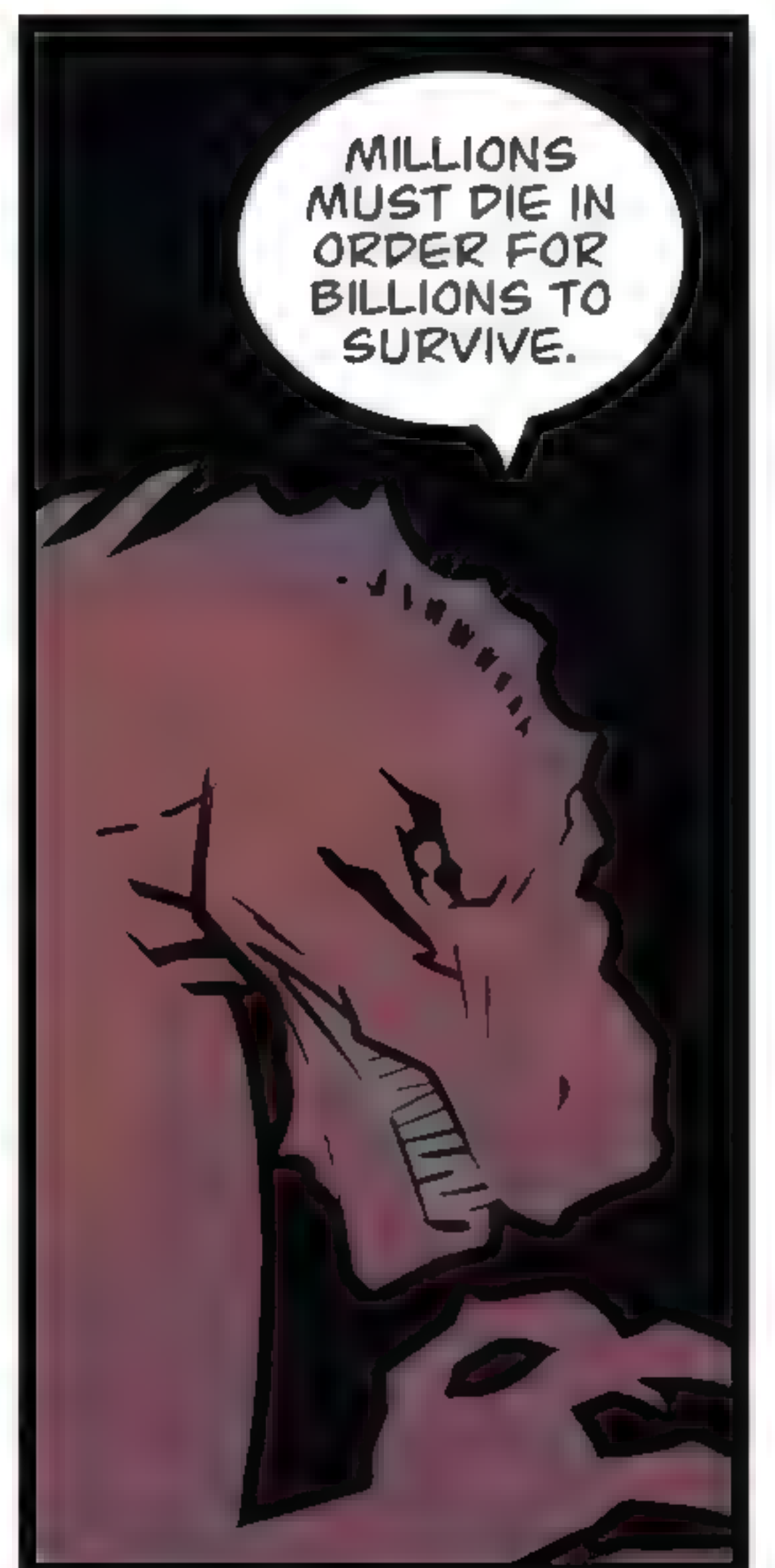


ONLY WHAT HAD TO BE DONE.

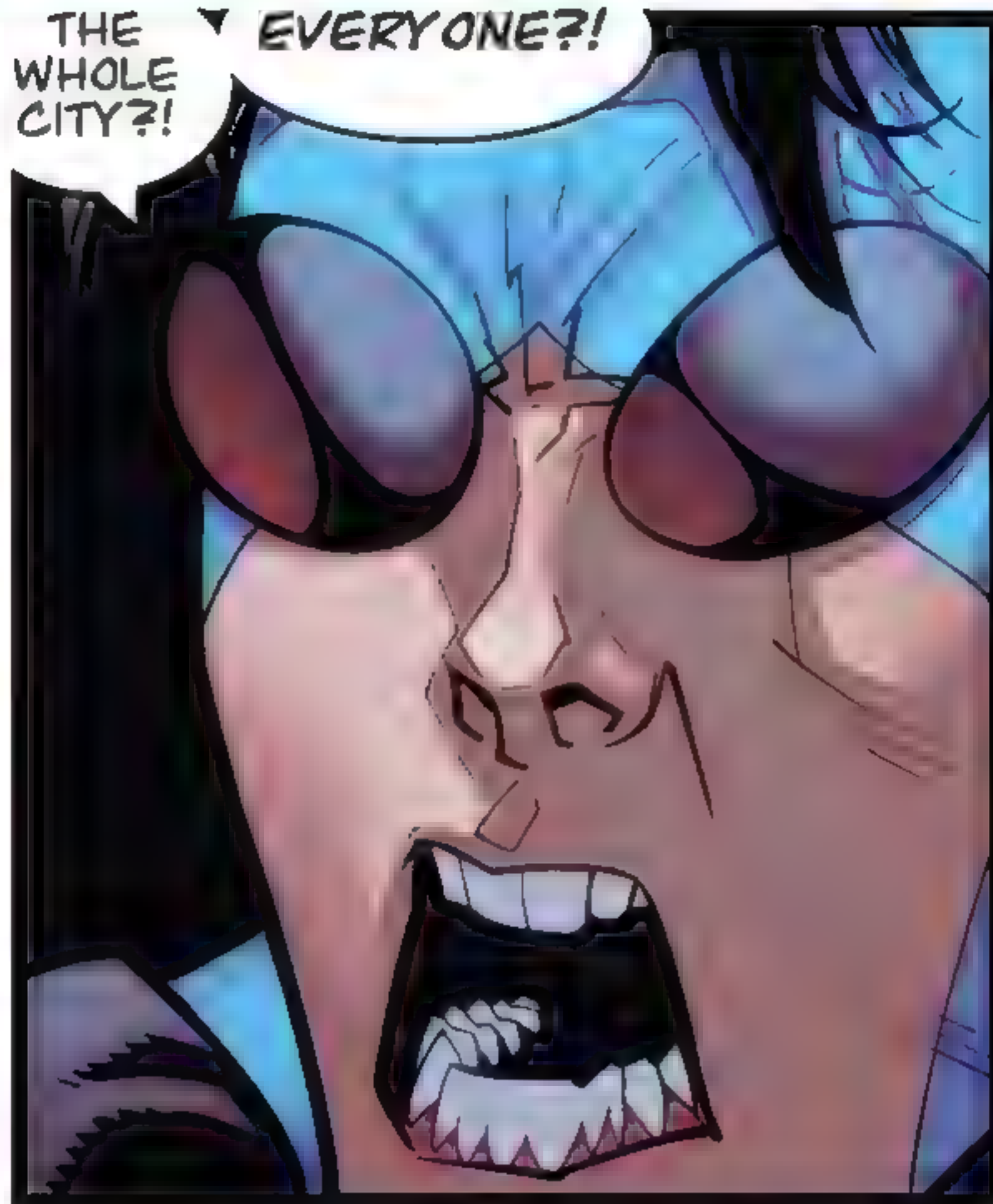


PLEASE TELL ME YOU HAVEN'T PUT ANYONE IN DANGER.

PLEASE...



MILLIONS MUST DIE IN ORDER FOR BILLIONS TO SURVIVE.





I MUST
HAVE MY
REVENGE!

I HAVE
WAITED
LONG
ENOUGH!



DO NOT FORGET
WHO IS IN
CONTROL HERE,
ANGSTROM.

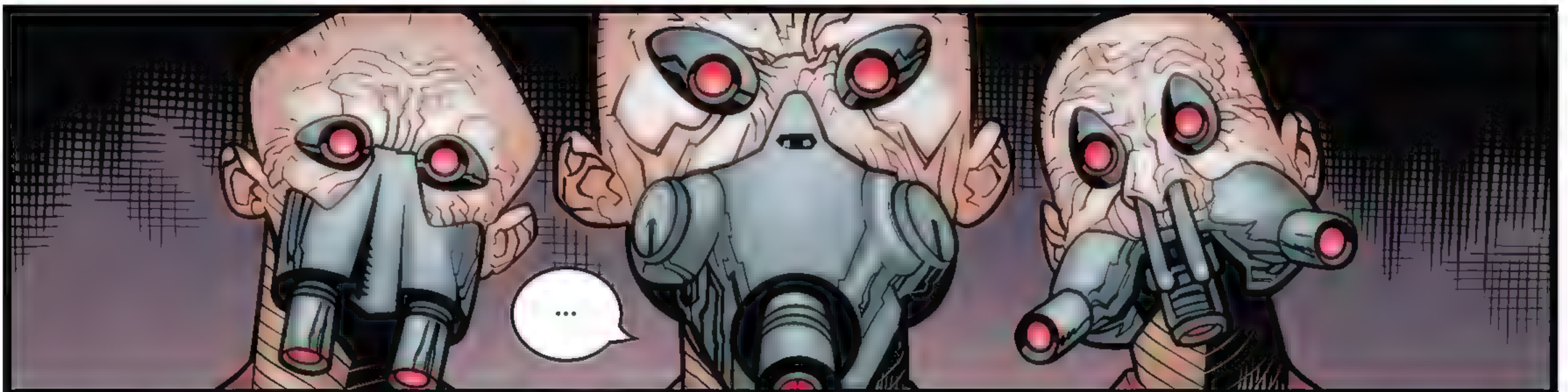
THESE
OUTBURSTS
WILL NOT BE
TOLERATED.



I HAVE TRANSFORMED YOUR
WORLD! PROVIDED YOU WITH
A POPULATION WHO WORSHIP
YOU AS GODS!

YOUR EVERY
WANT AND DESIRE
IS ATTENDED TO!
YOU HAVE **LIMITLESS**
RESOURCES! I HAVE
WORKED **TIRELESSLY**
TO CONSTRUCT A
PERFECT WORLD FOR
YOU--PULLED FROM
COUNTLESS
DIMENSIONS!

WHAT
MORE COULD
YOU POSSIBLY
WANT FROM
ME?!

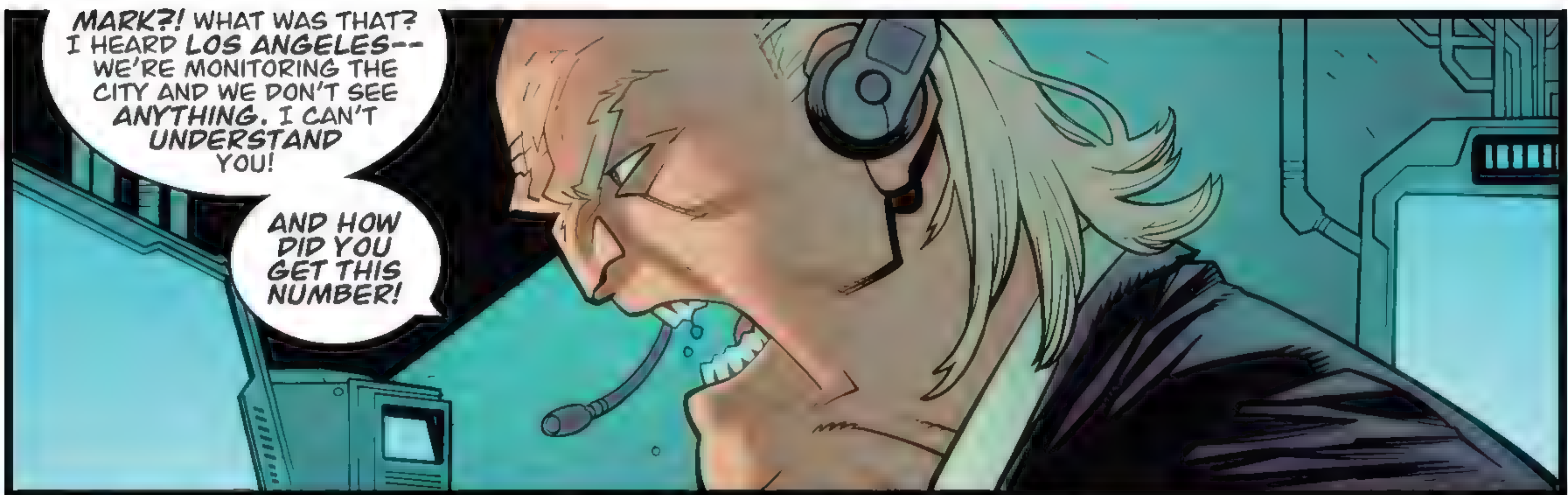


...



NOTHING.

YOU ARE
FREE TO GO.
THE TECHNICIANS
HAVE NO FURTHER
USE FOR YOU.



MARK?! WHAT WAS THAT?
I HEARD LOS ANGELES--
WE'RE MONITORING THE
CITY AND WE DON'T SEE
ANYTHING. I CAN'T
UNDERSTAND
YOU!

AND HOW
DID YOU
GET THIS
NUMBER!



SORRY, I
WAS FLYING
REALLY
FAST.

AND ROBOT
PUT YOUR
NUMBER IN THIS
PHONE WHEN
HE MADE IT
FOR ME.



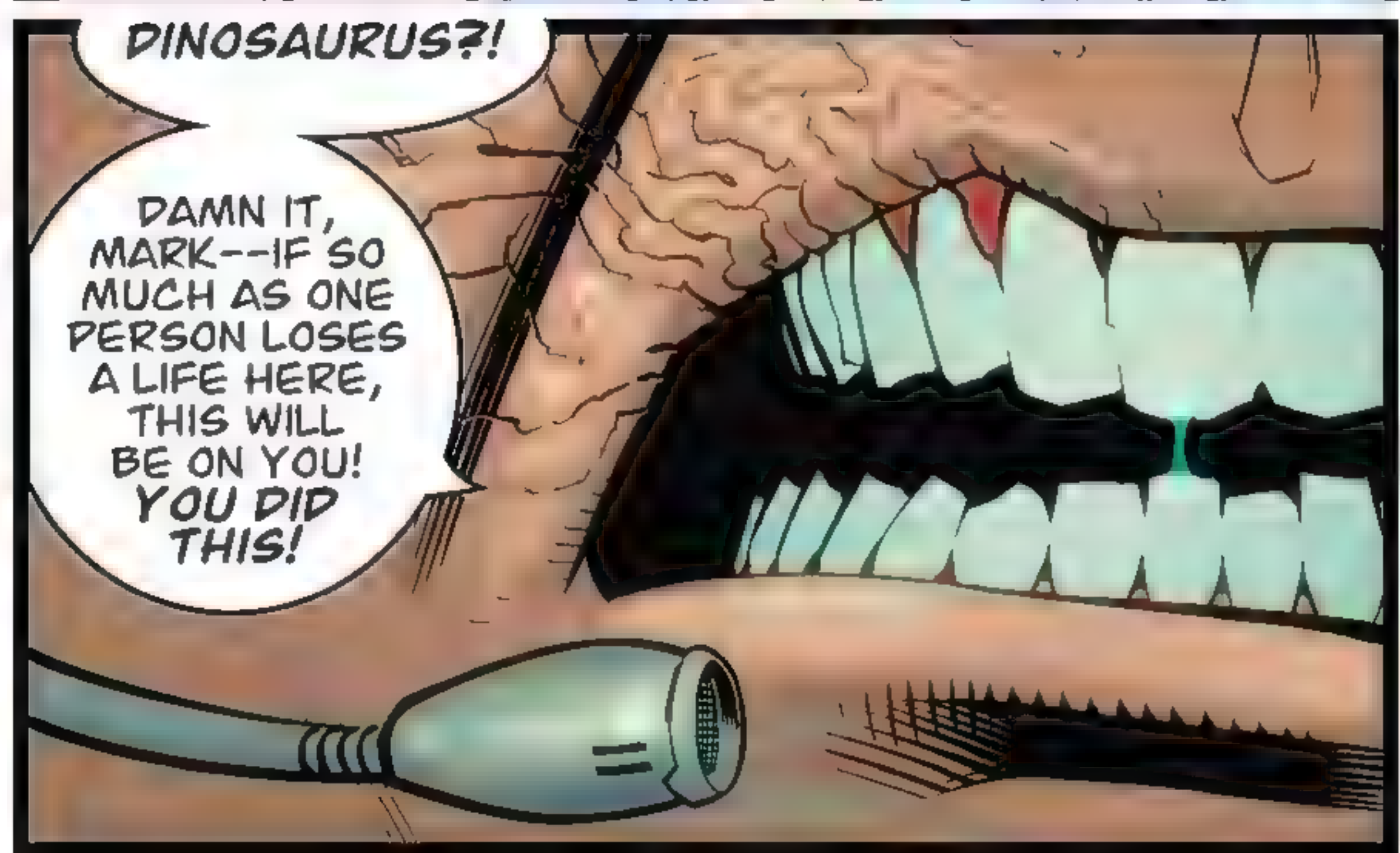
LOS ANGELES
HAS NO CURRENT
UNUSUAL
ACTIVITY. IT'S
QUIET.

WHAT'S
REALLY
GOING ON
HERE,
MARK?



IT'S LAS VEGAS ALL
OVER AGAIN! WE HAVE
TO FIND THE BOMBS
BEFORE DINOSAURUS
SETS THEM OFF--
WE DON'T HAVE
ANY TIME!

I NEED
YOU TO GET
EVERYONE
OUT HERE!
NOW!



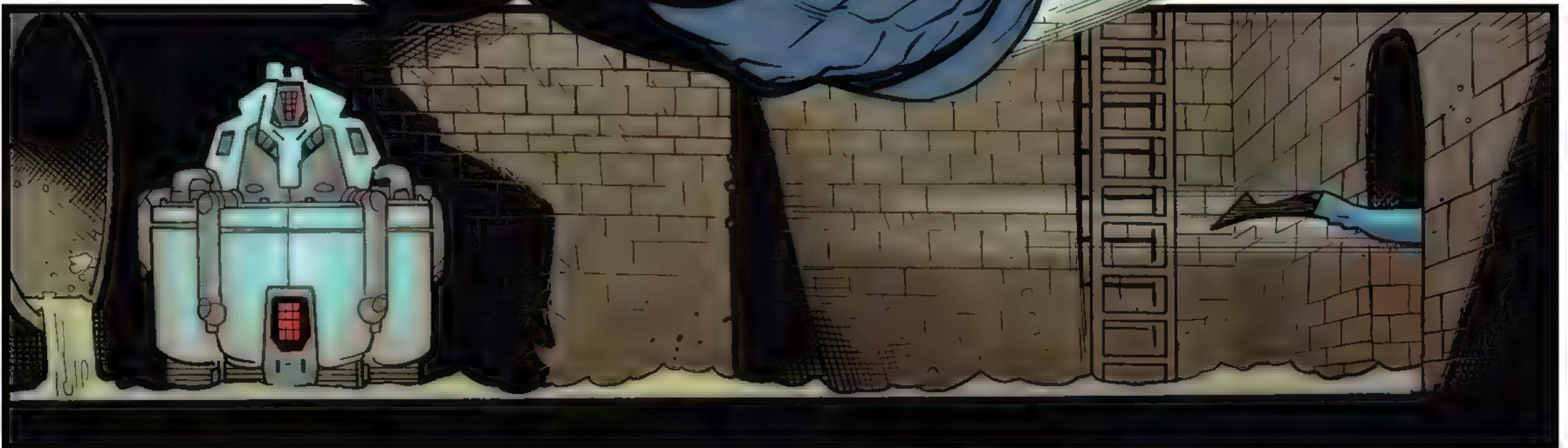
DINOSAURUS?!

DAMN IT,
MARK--IF SO
MUCH AS ONE
PERSON LOSES
A LIFE HERE,
THIS WILL
BE ON YOU!
YOU DID
THIS!



YOU CAN
SCOLD ME
LATER--THROW
ME IN PRISON--
BUT FOR
NOW--

JUST
HELP ME
MAKE IT
RIGHT!





ANY KIND OF ETA FOR THE GUARDIANS?! THESE COULD ALL GO OFF AT ANY SECOND!

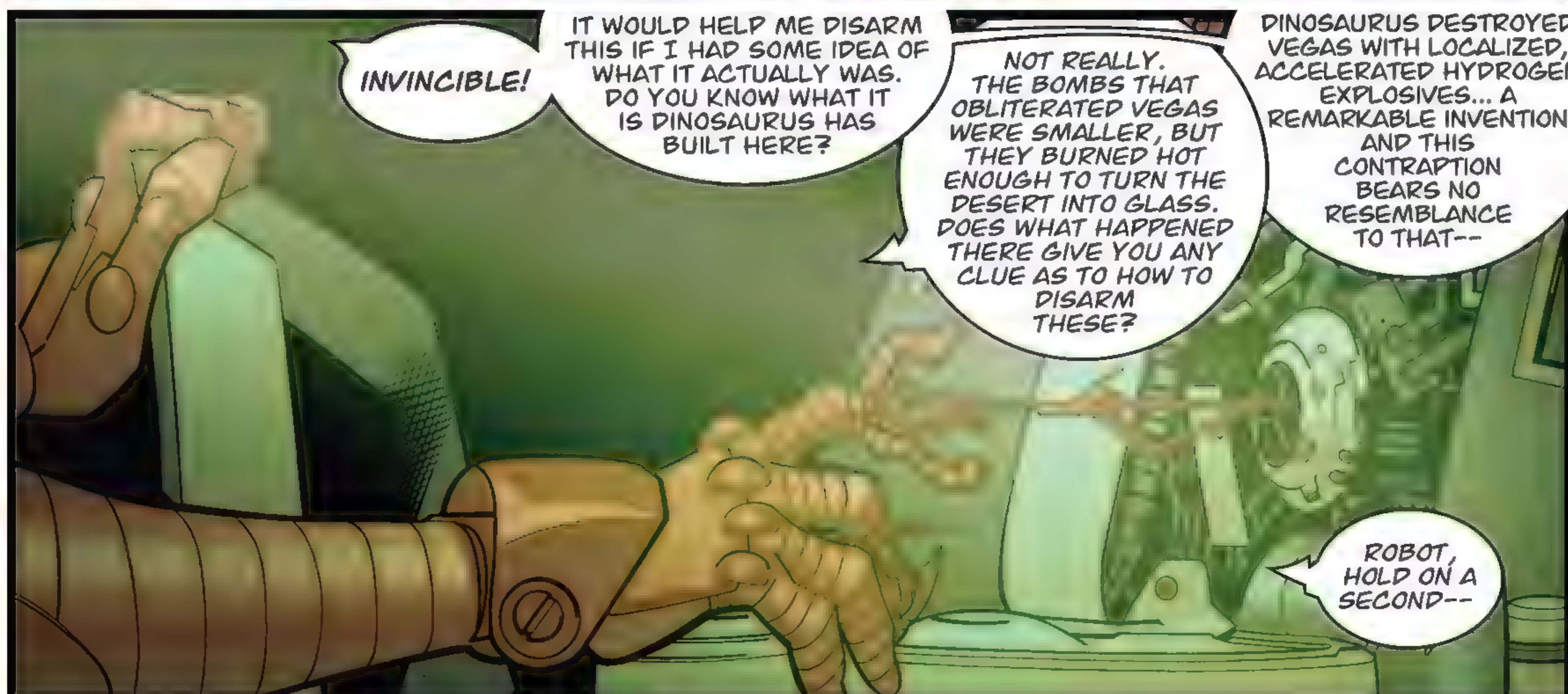
THEY'RE ARRIVING ON SITE RIGHT NOW. WE'RE SPACING THEM OUT INTO SEARCH GROUPS SO THEY CAN COVER MORE GROUND QUICKLY.



POP!



THANKS, MS. POPPER.



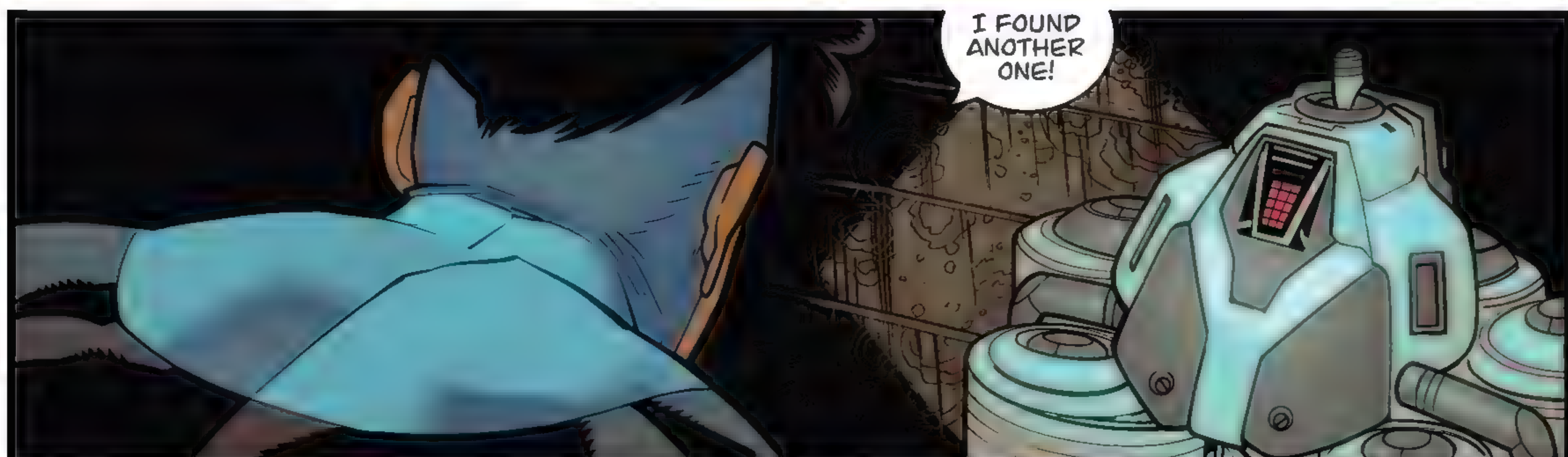
INVINCIBLE!

IT WOULD HELP ME DISARM THIS IF I HAD SOME IDEA OF WHAT IT ACTUALLY WAS. DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT IS DINOSAURUS HAS BUILT HERE?

NOT REALLY. THE BOMBS THAT OBLITERATED VEGAS WERE SMALLER, BUT THEY BURNED HOT ENOUGH TO TURN THE DESERT INTO GLASS. DOES WHAT HAPPENED THERE GIVE YOU ANY CLUE AS TO HOW TO DISARM THESE?

DINOSAURUS DESTROYED VEGAS WITH LOCALIZED, ACCELERATED HYDROGEN EXPLOSIVES... A REMARKABLE INVENTION, AND THIS CONTRAPTION BEARS NO RESEMBLANCE TO THAT--

ROBOT, HOLD ON A SECOND--



I FOUND ANOTHER ONE!



OKAY, INVINCIBLE'S FOUND ANOTHER BOMB.

ROBOT'S BUSY, WE NEED TO TELEPORT SOME TECH HEAD OVER THERE TO SHUT IT DOWN. IS THAT WEIRDO D.A. SINCLAIR REACHABLE?

OUTRUN, COME IN! I FIGURED YOU'D HAVE FOUND ABOUT SIX OF THESE SO FAR.

ONLY THREE, SIR. I'VE MARKED THEM ON THE GPS. STILL LOOKING.

ROBOT, WE'VE GOT FOUR OTHER DEVICES LOCATED. YOU'RE SURE THESE AREN'T BOMBS?

WE CAN'T JUST PLACE A SCIENTIST ON EACH ONE OF THESE THINGS AND HOPE FOR THE BEST. WHAT'S THE PLAN HERE? ANY IDEAS?

IF I HAD A DEFINITIVE PLAN WE COULD TELEPORT ALL MY OTHER ACTIVE DRONES HERE, AND I COULD DISARM THEM ALL REMOTELY. SADLY, I DON'T YET KNOW HOW THAT CAN BE DONE--HAVING ANOTHER PAIR OF EYES ON THESE WOULD HELP.

CECIL? GET SINCLAIR AND WHATEVER OTHER EGGHEADS YOU'VE GOT DOWN HERE TO HELP ROBOT.

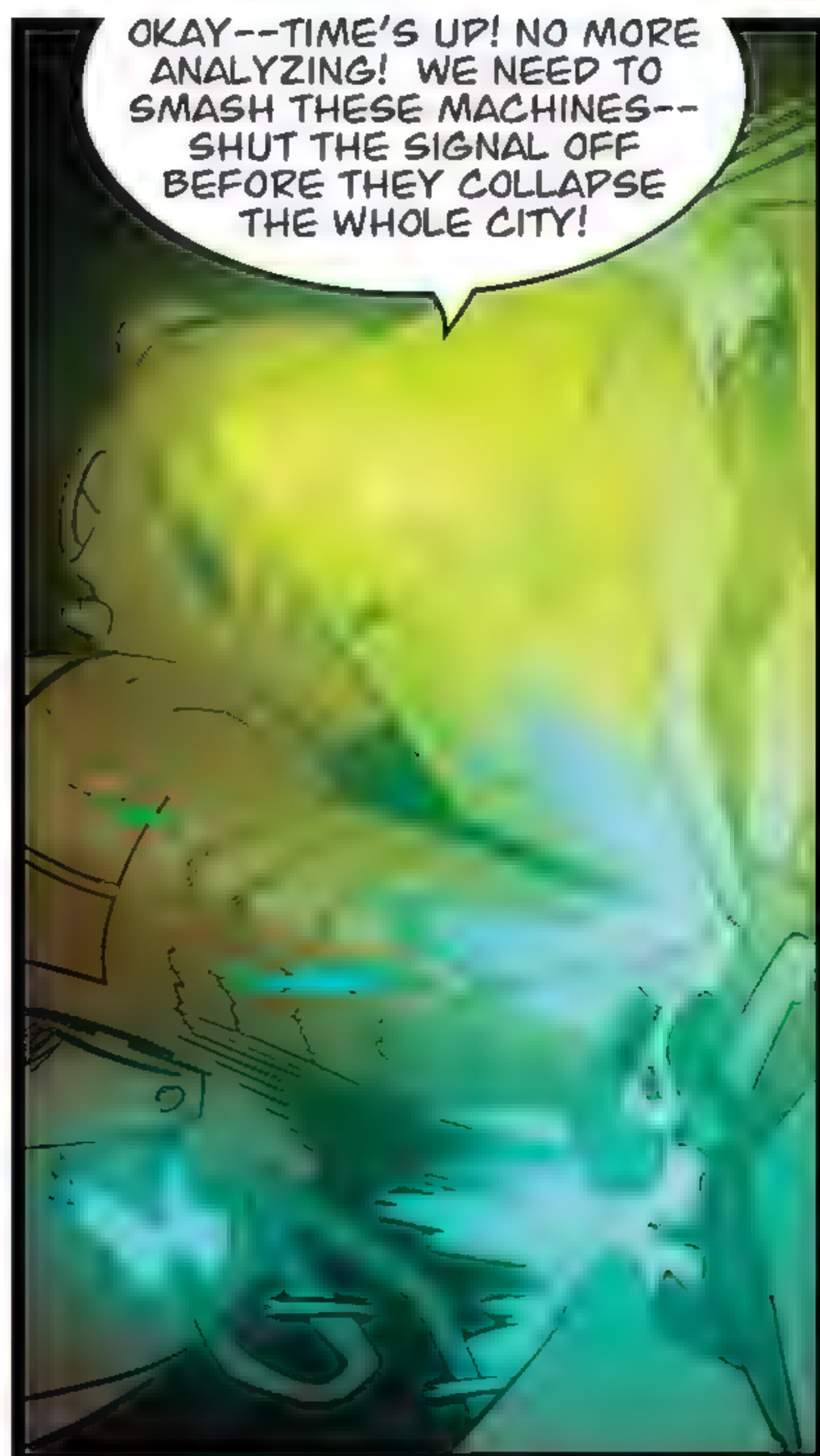
ROBOT, ANY CLUES AS TO WHAT WE'RE DEALING WITH HERE? ANY INDICATION ON WHAT EXACTLY WILL HAPPEN IF THESE THINGS GO OFF ANYTIME SOON?

AGAIN, I SEE NO SIGNS THAT THIS DEVICE IS EVEN CAPABLE OF DETONATING. I'M ALMOST CERTAIN THEY ARE NOT EXPLOSIVE IN NATURE.

WAIT A MINUTE, THERE IS AN ENERGY SOURCE, BUT IT'S NOT BUILDING UP ANYTHING FOR AN EXPLOSION. IT'S EMITTING A PULSE DOWN DEEPER BELOW THE SURFACE. I'LL NEED TO DO SOME READINGS, BUT IF THE BEAM IS POWERFUL ENOUGH AND THE FREQUENCY IS TUNED THE RIGHT WAY, IT COULD BE APPLYING ARTIFICIAL STRESS ON THE TECTONIC PLATES BELOW IN ORDER TO INDUCE A--

OH NO--



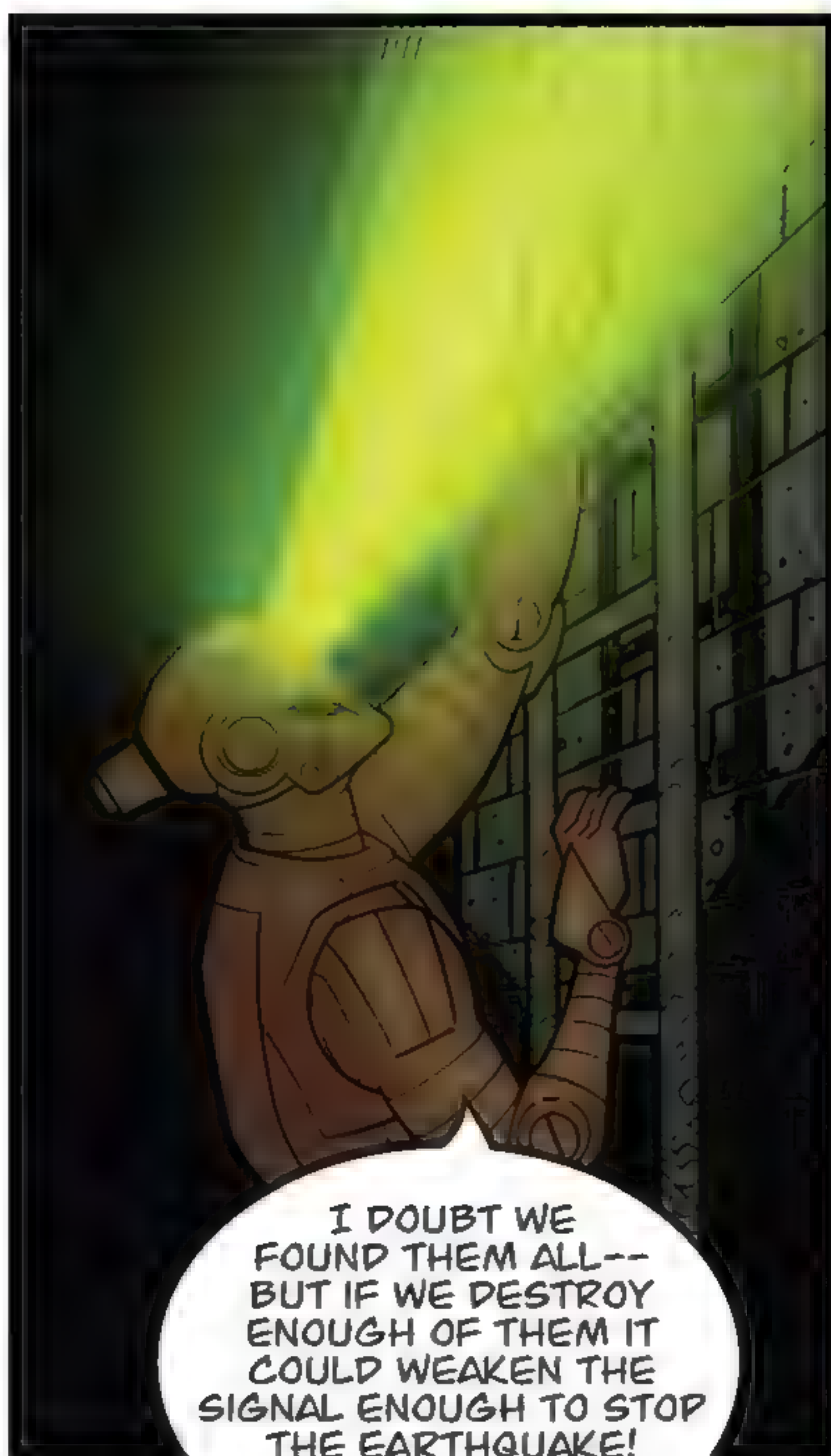


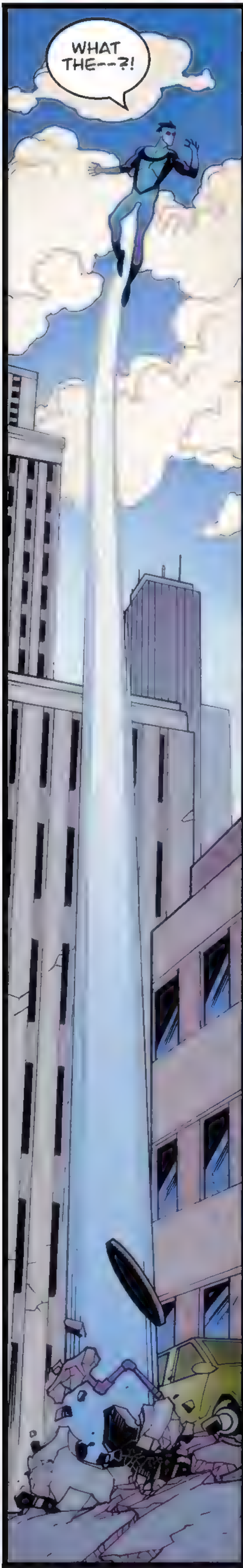
OKAY--TIME'S UP! NO MORE ANALYZING! WE NEED TO SMASH THESE MACHINES-- SHUT THE SIGNAL OFF BEFORE THEY COLLAPSE THE WHOLE CITY!

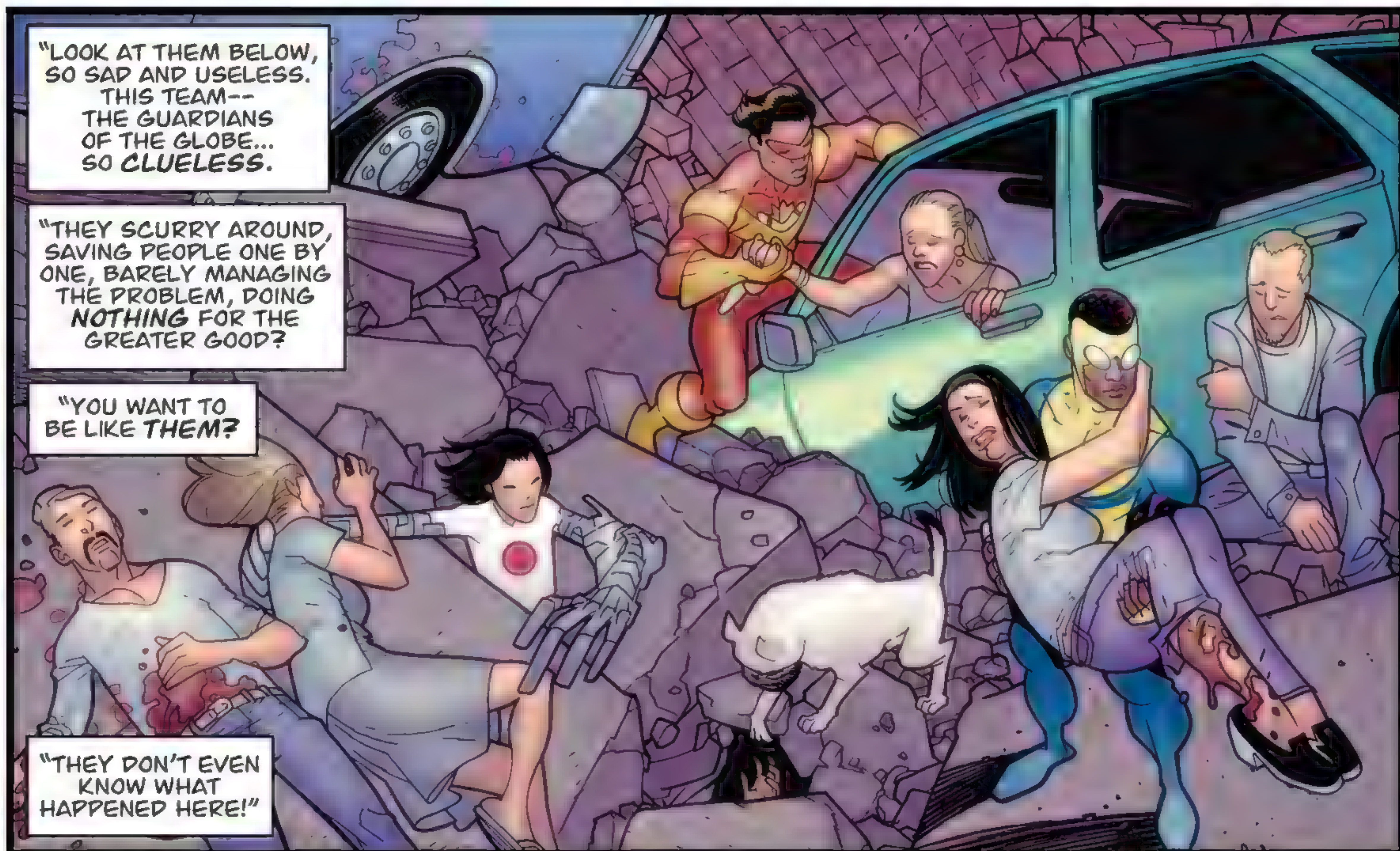


ON IT!









"LOOK AT THEM BELOW,
SO SAD AND USELESS.
THIS TEAM--
THE GUARDIANS
OF THE GLOBE...
SO CLUELESS."

"THEY SCURRY AROUND,
SAVING PEOPLE ONE BY
ONE, BARELY MANAGING
THE PROBLEM, DOING
NOTHING FOR THE
GREATER GOOD?"

"YOU WANT TO
BE LIKE THEM?"

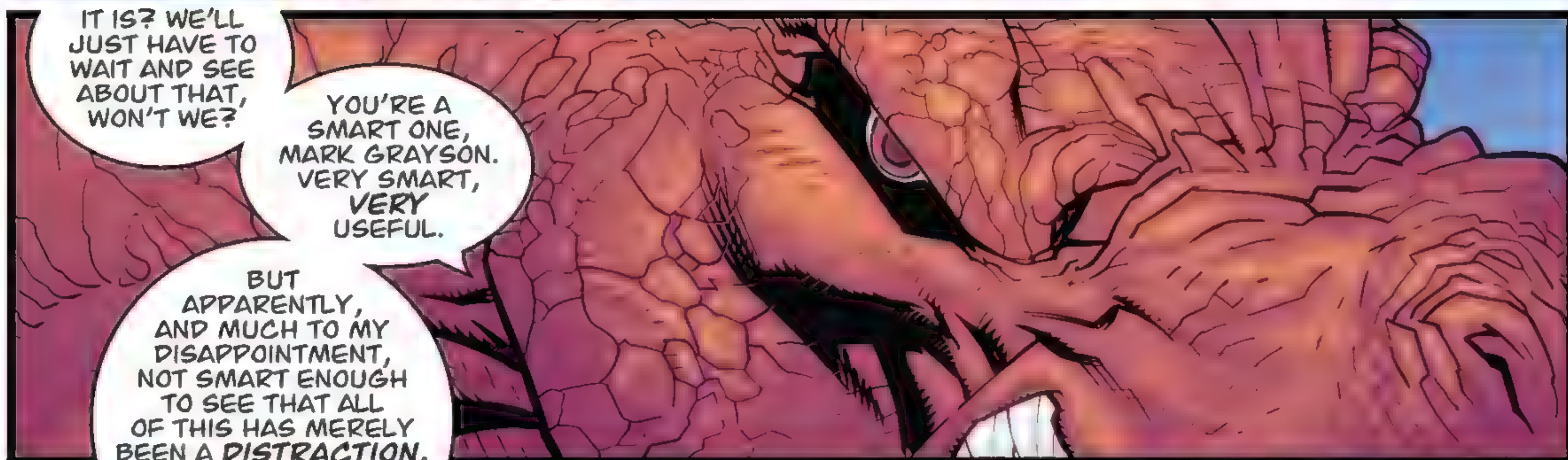
"THEY DON'T EVEN
KNOW WHAT
HAPPENED HERE!"



THEY KNOW EXACTLY
WHAT HAPPENED
HERE--A LUNATIC
KILLED THOUSANDS
OF PEOPLE... ALL
BECAUSE OF
ME!

I TRUSTED
YOU! I
THOUGHT YOU
WANTED TO HELP
PEOPLE!

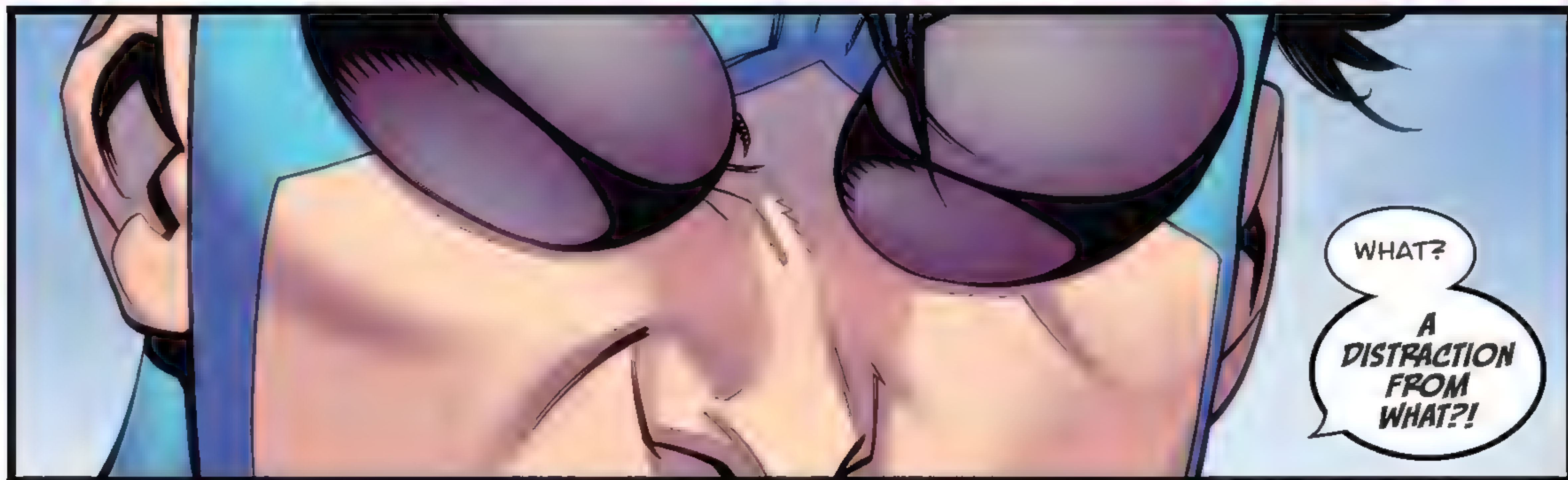
ANY THOUGHT
OF YOU AND I
WORKING TOGETHER
TO SAVE THE WORLD--
THAT'S OVER--
THAT'S DONE!



IT IS? WE'LL
JUST HAVE TO
WAIT AND SEE
ABOUT THAT,
WON'T WE?

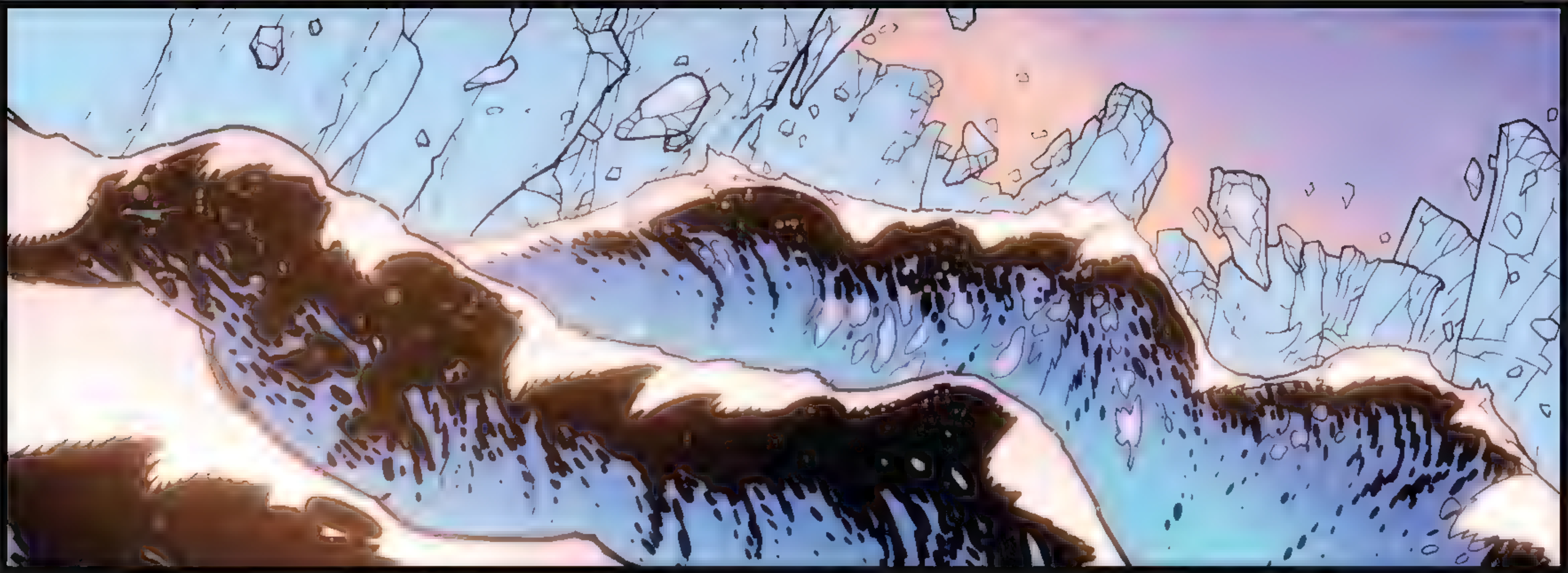
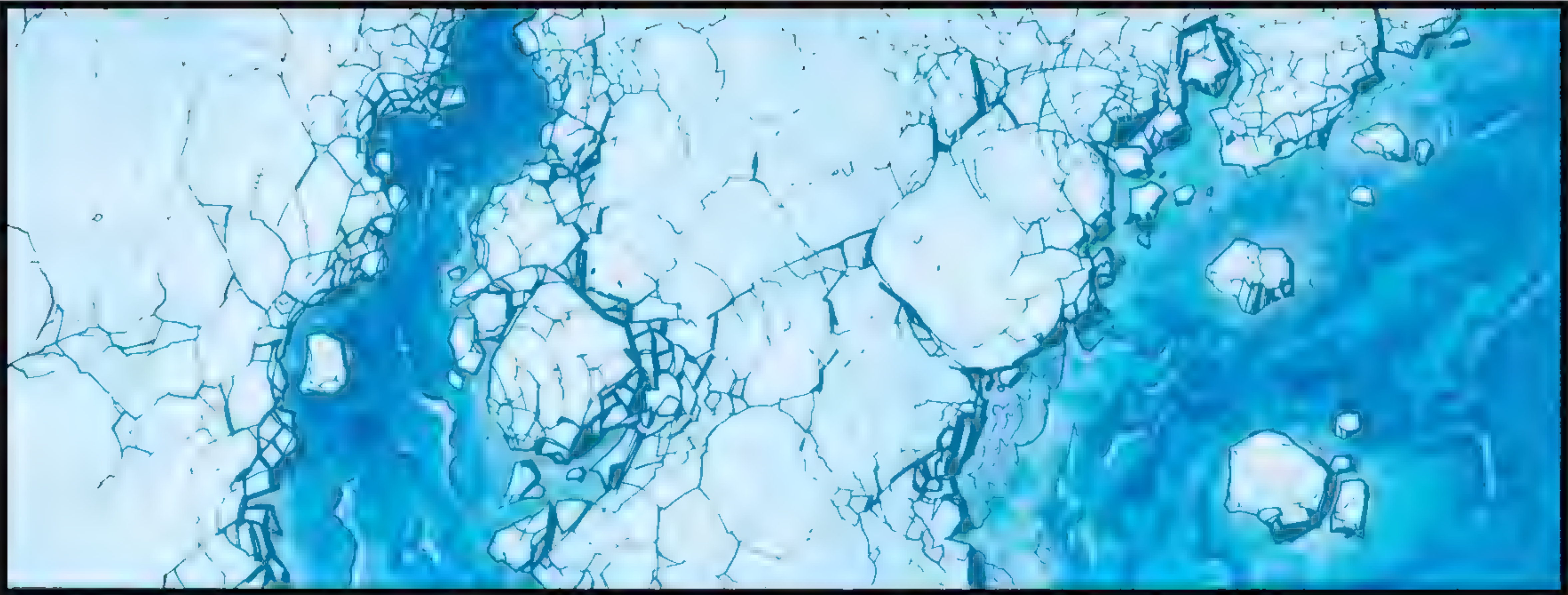
YOU'RE A
SMART ONE,
MARK GRAYSON.
VERY SMART,
VERY
USEFUL.

BUT
APPARENTLY,
AND MUCH TO MY
DISAPPOINTMENT,
NOT SMART ENOUGH
TO SEE THAT ALL
OF THIS HAS MERELY
BEEN A DISTRACTION.



WHAT?

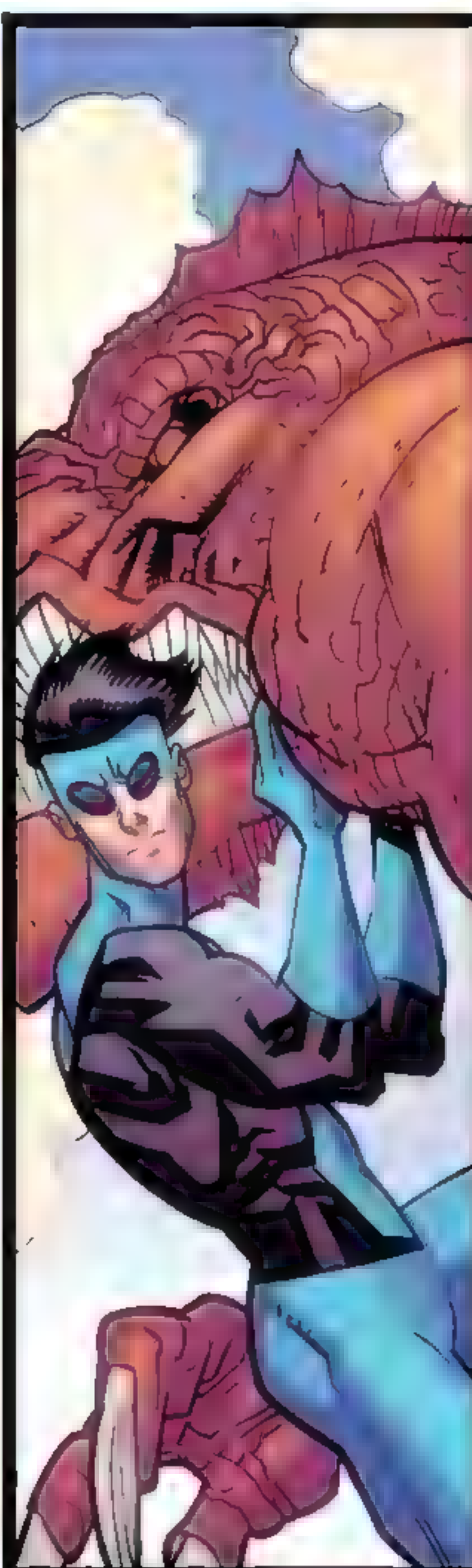
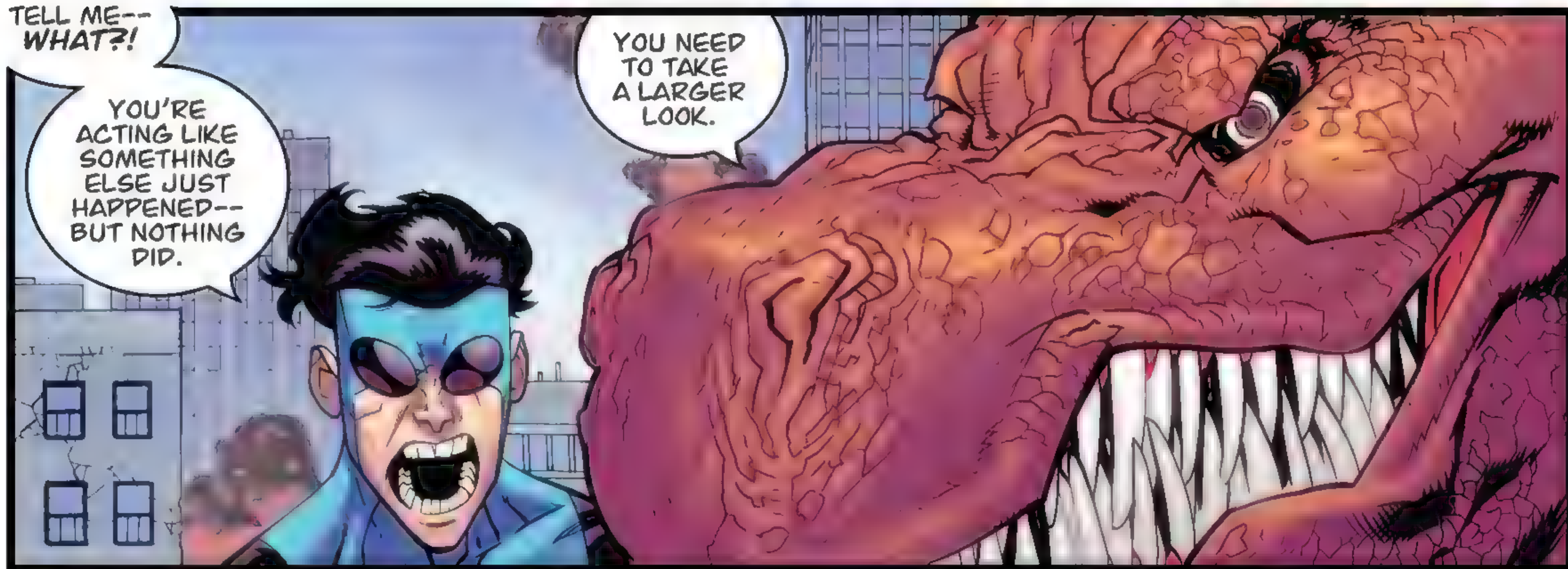
A
DISTRACTION
FROM
WHAT?!



TELL ME--
WHAT?!

YOU'RE
ACTING LIKE
SOMETHING
ELSE JUST
HAPPENED--
BUT NOTHING
DID.

YOU NEED
TO TAKE
A LARGER
LOOK.



WHAT DID
YOU DO?!
WHAT AM
I LOOKING
FOR?!

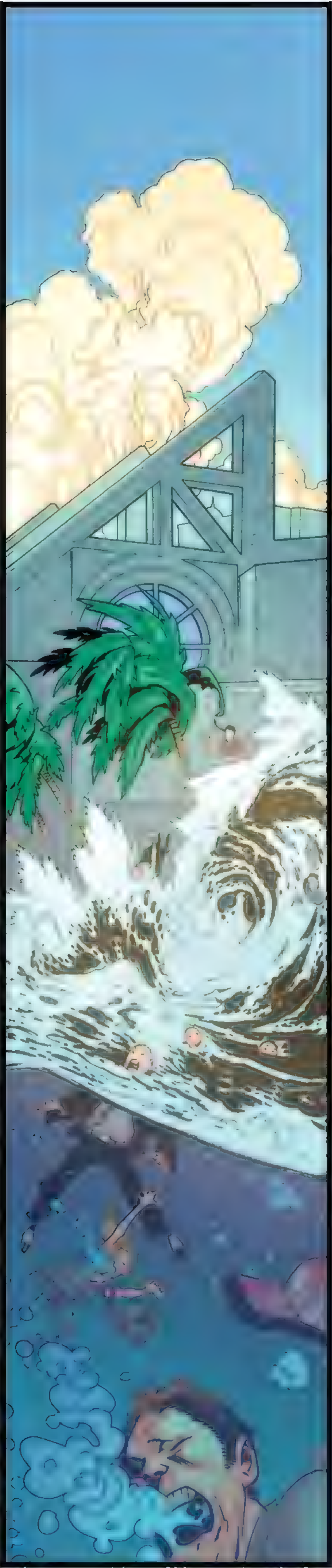


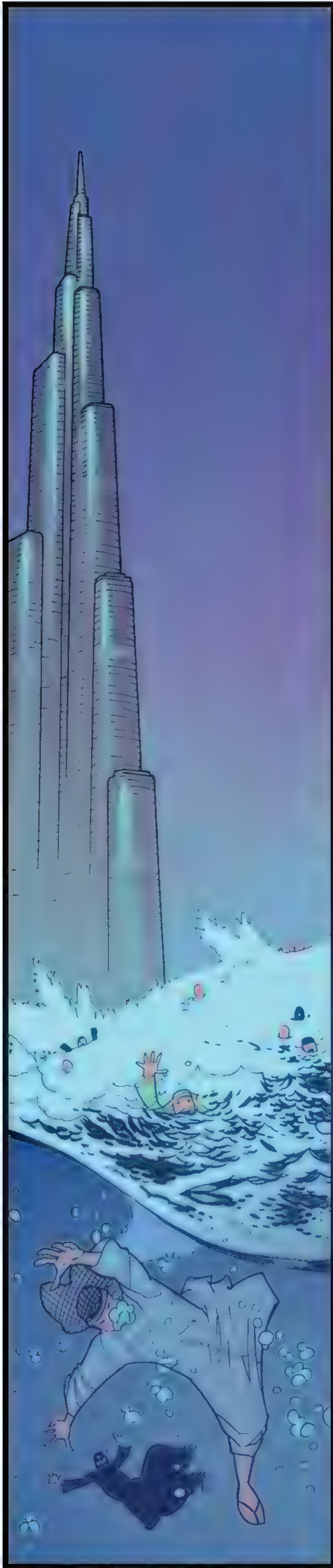
JUST KEEP
WATCHING...



OH,
GOD...










YOU'RE
KILLING
EVERYONE.



CHAPTER THREE





THIS ISN'T
THE DEATH OF
EVERYONE...

...JUST A
SIGNIFICANT
PORTION OF THE
POPULATION,
ACCORDING TO MY
STUDIES. ENOUGH
TO FIX THINGS, TO
TURN THINGS
AROUND SO THAT
OUR CIVILIZATION
CAN ENDURE.


THE WATERS,
THEY WILL ONLY
KILL THOUSANDS,
NOT MILLIONS... BUT
DRIVING PEOPLE
FROM THE COASTAL
CITIES, DISRUPTING
THOSE LIVES, MAKING
THE POPULATION
CENTERS OF THE
WORLD UNLIVABLE...
THAT WILL
CHANGE THE
WORLD...

...FOR THE
BETTER!

ISN'T THAT
WHAT WE WERE
WORKING TOWARD--
WHAT WE'RE TRYING
TO ACCOMPLISH--
ISN'T THAT WHAT
YOU WANTED--
A BETTER
WORLD?

YOU'RE
INSANE!
NO! I
DIDN'T WANT
THIS!

NOTHING
GOOD WILL
COME OF THIS...
YOU'VE... RUINED
EVERYTHING.



THE WATER
SHOWS NO SIGN
OF RECEDING ANY
TIME SOON.
GUARDIANS--GET
THESE PEOPLE OFF
THE STREETS
AND TO HIGHER
GROUND.

CECIL, YOUR
PEOPLE NEED TO
ISSUE WARNINGS
BEFORE THE POWER
GOES OUT! TELL
PEOPLE TO HOLE UP
IN THE HIGHER FLOORS
OF THE BUILDINGS
WORLDWIDE!

WE'VE GOT
MUCH BIGGER
PROBLEMS HERE.
WE CAN'T BE
FOCUSING ON
LOS ANGELES
EXCLUSIVELY.

KID THOR,
KNOCKOUT--
I WANT YOU IN
SAN DIEGO!

LE BRUSIER,
PEGASUS--GO TO
SAN FRANCISCO.

GUARDIANS ARE COVERING THE ENTIRE WEST COAST. I'M SCRAMBLING MORE TEAM MEMBERS TO THE OTHER WEST COAST CITIES.

CAPIES INCORPORATED HAS NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY COVERED. CHUPACABRA IS IN RIO DE JANEIRO. WOLF-MAN AND THE WOLF C.O.R.P.S. ARE IN HONG KONG DOING ALL THEY CAN! ACTIONEERS ARE IN LONDON.

I'M SCRAMBLING TROOPS TO ALL OTHER CITIES. THE CURRENT BARRAGE IS BEING HANDLED AS WELL AS IT CAN, I'M TRANSITIONING TO MORE LONG-TERM THINKING.


I'VE FORWARDED OVER A SET OF SCHEMATICS FOR A SOLUTION TO THE FLOODING WORLDWIDE. I ESTIMATE IF WE SINK ALL OUR AVAILABLE RESOURCES INTO THIS, IT CAN BE BUILT IN LESS THAN THREE WEEKS.

THAT WON'T BE ENOUGH TIME FOR THE WATER TO ERODE OR COMPROMISE THE STRUCTURES OF THESE CITIES. WE NEED TO MOVE ON THIS QUICKLY--GET MY SCHEMATICS TO SINCLAIR AND THE REST OF YOUR BRAIN TRUST NOW!

I'M ON IT! THEY'RE LOOKING OVER THEM AND GETTING STARTED.

GOOD, I'LL BE THERE TO ASSIST AS SOON AS THE CURRENT RESCUE MISSION IS OVER. I'M CURRENTLY PILOTING NEARLY THIRTY DRONES THAT ARE DIVIDING MY FOCUS.





THIS IS ALL
MY FAULT! DO
YOU REALIZE THAT?!
I FREED YOU--I
BELIEVED IN YOU! I
THOUGHT YOU REALLY
WERE WORKING FOR
THE GOOD OF
HUMANITY--BUT
NOW--NOW--


YOU'VE
MADE
ME A MASS
MURDERER!

THERE'S NO
COMING BACK
FROM THIS--
NOT THIS MANY
PEOPLE--THIS MUCH
DESTRUCTION!
YOU'VE RUINED
ME!

I UNDERSTAND
YOU'RE ANGRY--
YOU HAVE A PROBLEM
SEEING THE BIGGER
PICTURE, THAT'S YOUR
WEAKNESS... BUT I SEE
NO REASON FOR YOU
TO ATTEMPT TO
HURT ME.

I JUST
DON'T SEE
WHAT THAT WILL
ACCOMPLISH.





YOU ARE INTELLIGENT, I KNOW THIS TO BE TRUE. IT SEEMS HORRIBLE--NOW! IT SEEMS LIKE THE END OF THE WORLD--NOW! BUT THESE DEATHS ARE INCONSEQUENTIAL!

YOU YOURSELF EVEN ADMITTED THAT WHAT HAPPENED IN VEGAS WAS FOR THE GOOD OF ALL--YOU JUST DISAGREED WITH THE WAY I ACCOMPLISHED THAT GOAL.

TRUST ME THAT THERE WERE NO ALTERNATIVES HERE!

TRUST ME!

SHUT UP!




I DON'T KNOW
WHAT YOU'RE
EVEN HOPING TO
ACCOMPLISH HERE.
YOU'VE NEVER
BEEN ABLE TO
DEFEAT ME
PHYSICALLY.

ARE YOU
TRYING TO
MAKE ME KILL
YOU? HAS
IT COME TO
THAT?

YOU'RE
WORRIED THE
PEOPLE WILL
HATE YOU, AND
YOU CAN'T
GO ON?!

KR OOT!!!



I DON'T BUY IT FOR A MINUTE. SO WHAT IS IT THEN? ARE YOU JUST **ANGRY**? I CAN UNDERSTAND THAT. THAT'S LOGICAL. I'VE DONE SOMETHING OUT OF YOUR CONTROL, IT'S NATURAL TO FIND THAT FRUSTRATING.

EVEN **INFURIATING**.

NOW--
LET THAT GO!

CALM DOWN AND SEE THE FUTURE--SEE A TIME WHERE YOU AND I COOPERATE, WHERE YOU DON'T HAVE THE BURDEN OF YOUR HERO STATUS.

WITH YOUR POWERS RETURNED, WE CAN ACCOMPLISH SO MUCH. AND SO WHAT IF THE PEOPLE **HATE US**? THIS WAS NEVER ABOUT **CREDIT**.

THIS IS ABOUT **SAVING MODERN CIVILIZATION**.

I DON'T DO THIS FOR **GLORY**. I DO THIS BECAUSE I **CARE**.

I'M SURE
YOU'RE ALL
AWARE OF THE
REASON I'VE
CALLED YOU
HERE.

OUR ADOPTIVE
PLANET IS
EXPERIENCING A
CATACLYSM, BUT I
MUST REITERATE---
YOU ARE NOT TO
INTERFERE IN
ANY WAY.

WERE OUR
PRESENCE TO BE
KNOWN TO THE
POPULATION, IT WOULD
COMPLICATE MATTERS.
WE ARE TO EXIST HERE,
UNDETECTED, BIDDING
OUR TIME UNTIL OUR
OFFSPRING IS OF AGE
AND EXHIBITING
VILTRUMITE
ABILITIES.


IT IS ONLY
WHEN OUR RANKS
SWELL THAT WE
WILL REVEAL
OURSELVES AND
ASSUME CONTROL
OF THE PLANET.

WE
CANNOT STIR
THE COALITION
OF PLANETS INTO
ACTION, OUR
PEOPLE WOULD
NOT SURVIVE
ANOTHER
CONFLICT.

I KNOW THAT
MANY OF US HAVE
GROWN CONNECTED
TO OUR CHOSEN MATES
ON THE PLANET BELOW...
THAT IS ILL-ADVISED.
WHATEVER HAPPENS
TO THESE PEOPLE, IT
MUST BE ALLOWED
TO HAPPEN.

ANYONE
WHO DISOBEYS
ME, WILL
FACE MY
WRATH.





STAGING
GROUND SEVEN,
IN NEW JERSEY,
CAN TAKE ON
MORE REFUGEES,
WE'RE DIVERTING
THIS BATCH
THERE.

MY SCANS
SHOW THAT THE
STREETS HAVE
BEEN COMPLETELY
EVACUATED, AND
THE CASUALTIES
HAVE BEEN MUCH
LOWER THAN
PROJECTED.

STILL NOT
LOW ENOUGH.
THE EVACUATION
IS WORKING, BUT
THESE PEOPLE CAN'T
BE DISPLACED FOR
LONG. DO YOU HAVE
A PLAN FOR THIS?
CAN A SEA WALL BE
CONSTRUCTED?

IT COULD--
BUT I'VE GOT
A TEAM WORKING
ON SOMETHING
BETTER. WE
SHOULD HAVE IT
READY IN--

WAIT! I'M
GETTING A REPORT
IN--THEY'VE FOUND
DINOSAURUS. THEY'RE
TRACKING A FIGHT
BETWEEN HIM AND
INVINCIBLE
RIGHT NOW.

THEY'RE
STILL IN
LOS ANGELES.



I THINK
YOU'VE SAID
MORE THAN
ENOUGH!

WIROKKI!

NOW
LISTEN TO
ME!!

WIRAAAA!!!



THROKK OM!



I WAS STUPID
TO EVER TRUST
YOU! YOU'RE
BRILLIANT--YOU HAVE
GOOD IDEAS--YOU
RECOGNIZE PROBLEMS
THAT OTHERS HAVE
BARELY BEGUN TO
CONCEIVE--
BUT YOU'RE
INSANE!

I THOUGHT
WE COULD
SAVE THE
WORLD!

INSTEAD
YOU'VE MADE
ME YOUR
ACCOMPLICE IN
DESTROYING
IT!

FOR THE
SAKE OF
HUMANITY--
YOU HAVE
TO DIE!




BOOM!

NO!

I HAVE THE
DATA! I SEE
WHAT LIES
AHEAD FOR US!
I KNOW WHAT
I'M DOING IS
RIGHT!

IF YOU
REFUSE TO
HELP ME--
IF YOU'RE
GOING TO
STAND IN MY
WAY--



IT'S
YOU
WHO MUST
DIE!

BUT IT
DOESN'T
HAVE TO BE
THIS WAY--
YOU CAN
STOP THIS--
YOU CAN--

ALL I'M
GOING TO
DO IS
TAKE YOU
DOWN!





IT WOULD
APPEAR WE'VE
ATTRACTED A
SPECTATOR.
NO MATTER...
THE WORLD
SHOULD SEE
THIS.

IT
WILL WARN
OTHERS
WHO OPPOSE
ME--YOU
SEE...

...SINCE
YOU'VE PROVEN,
INVINCIBLE,
THAT YOU CAN'T
STAY OUT OF
MY WAY...



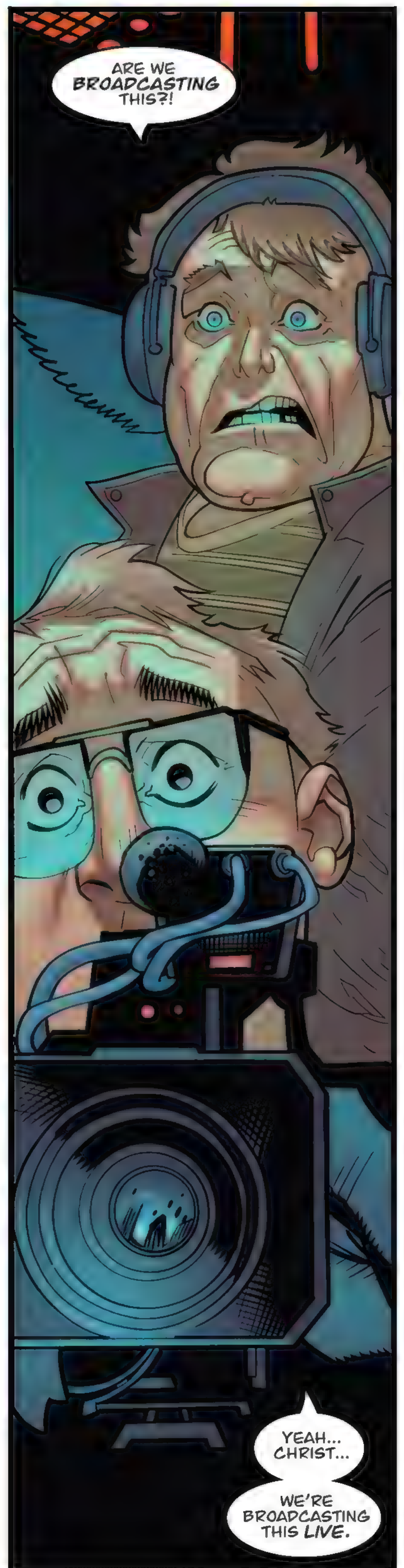
I'M AFRAID
I HAVE NO
CHOICE--IT'S
TIME FOR
YOU TO
DIE!



CHAPTER FOUR



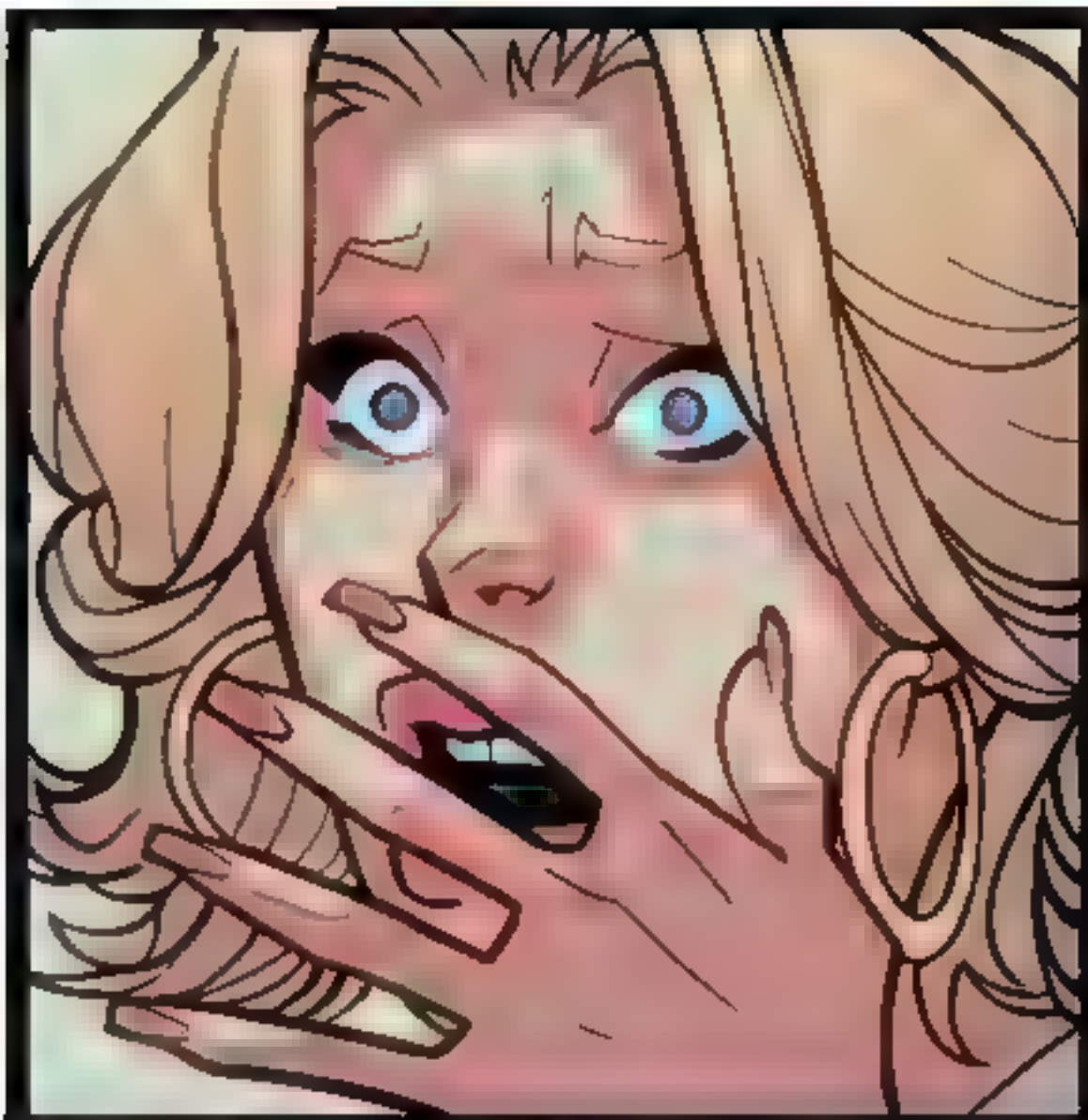
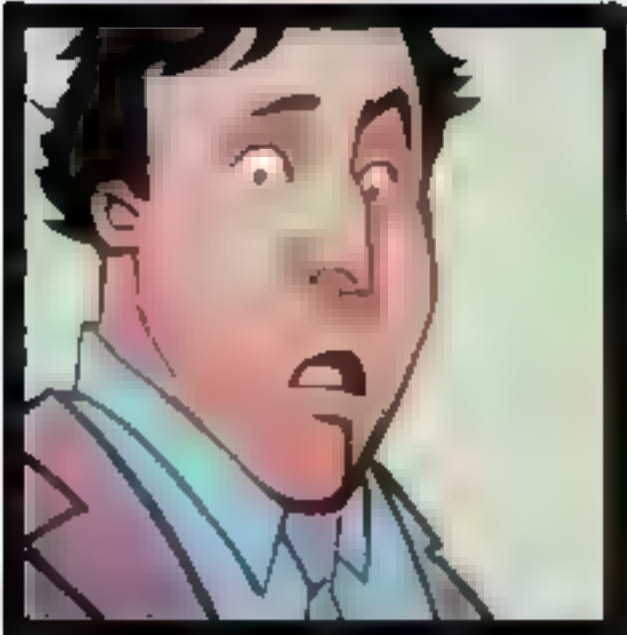
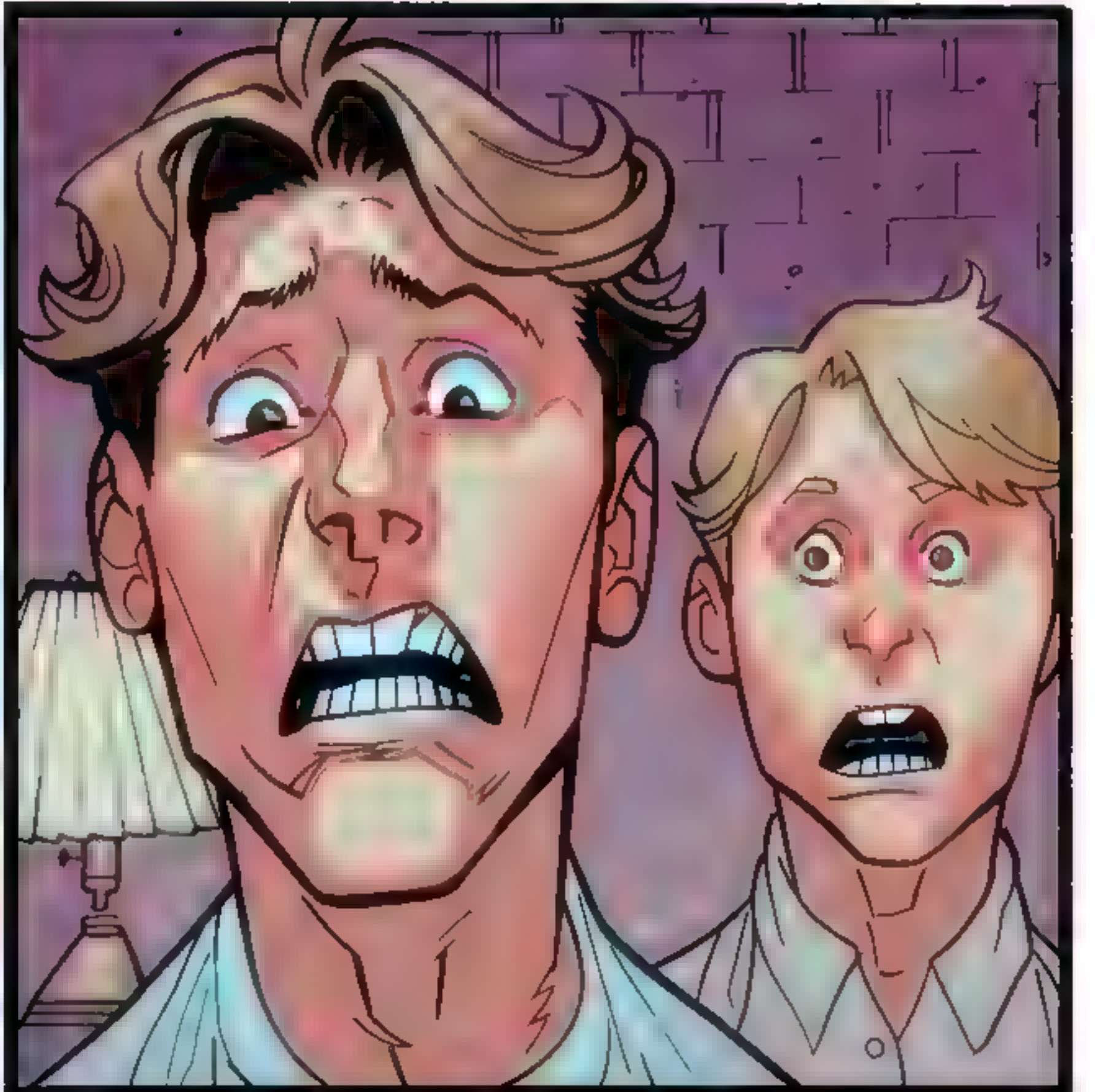
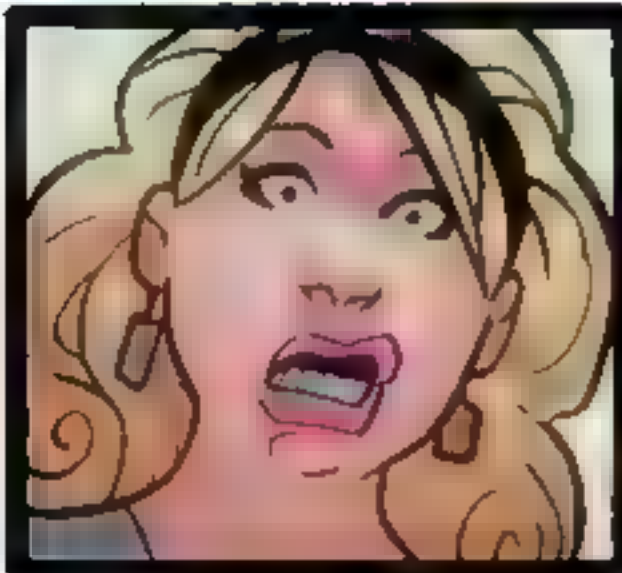
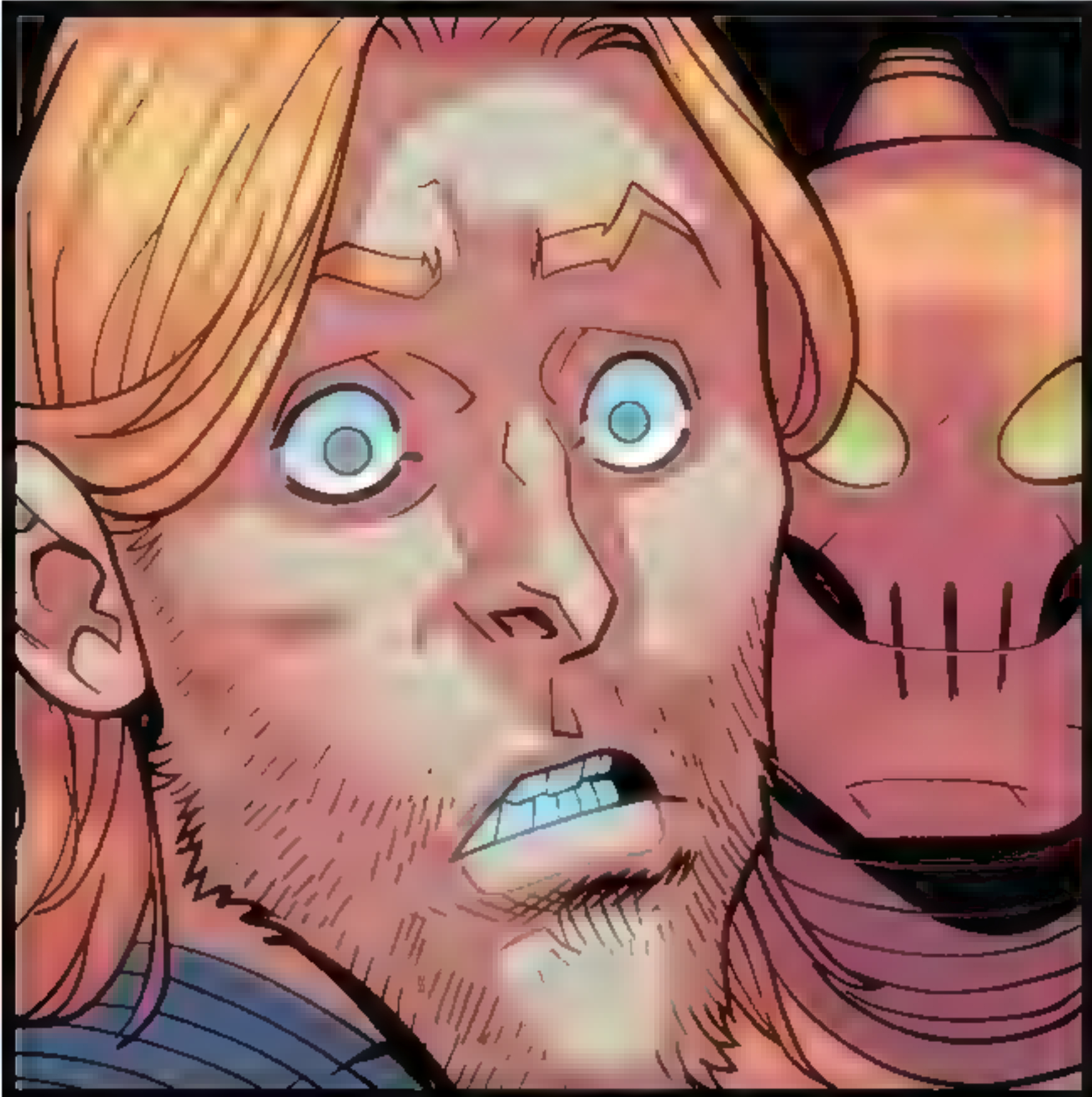
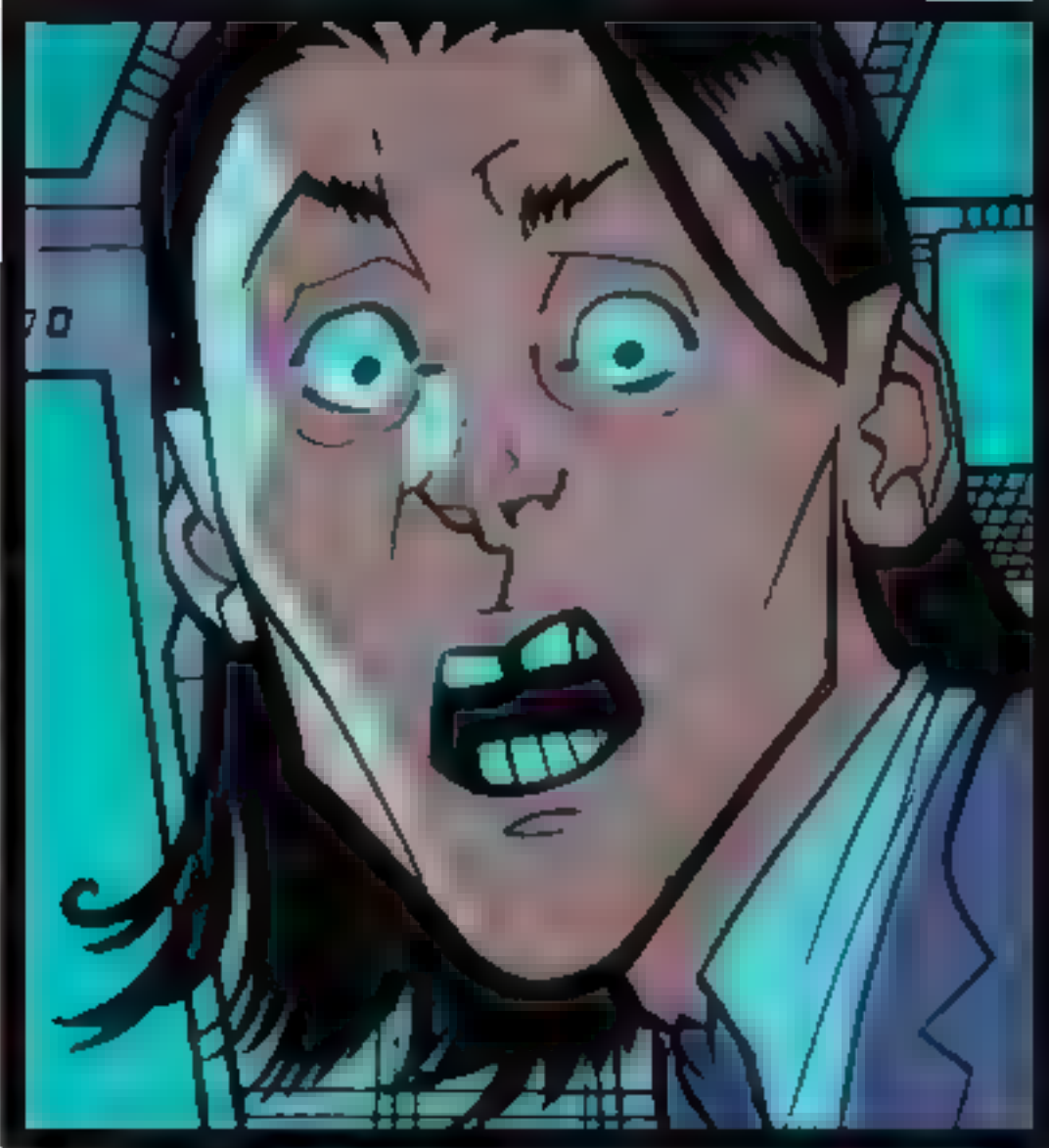
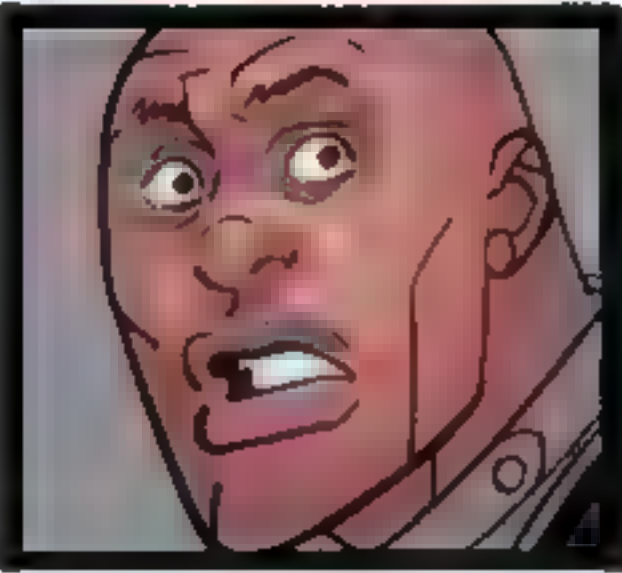
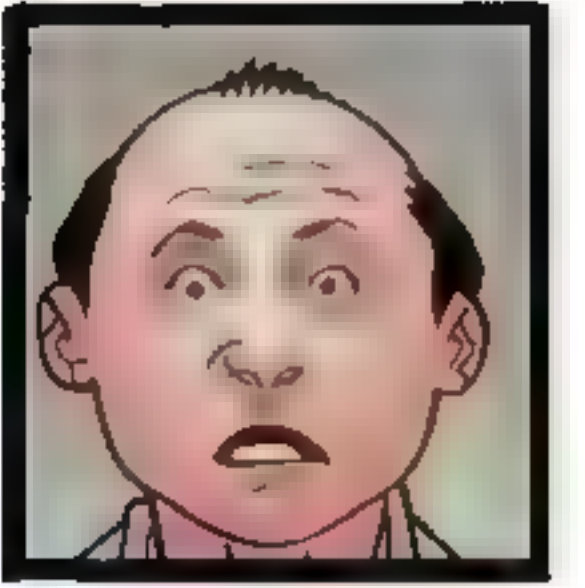
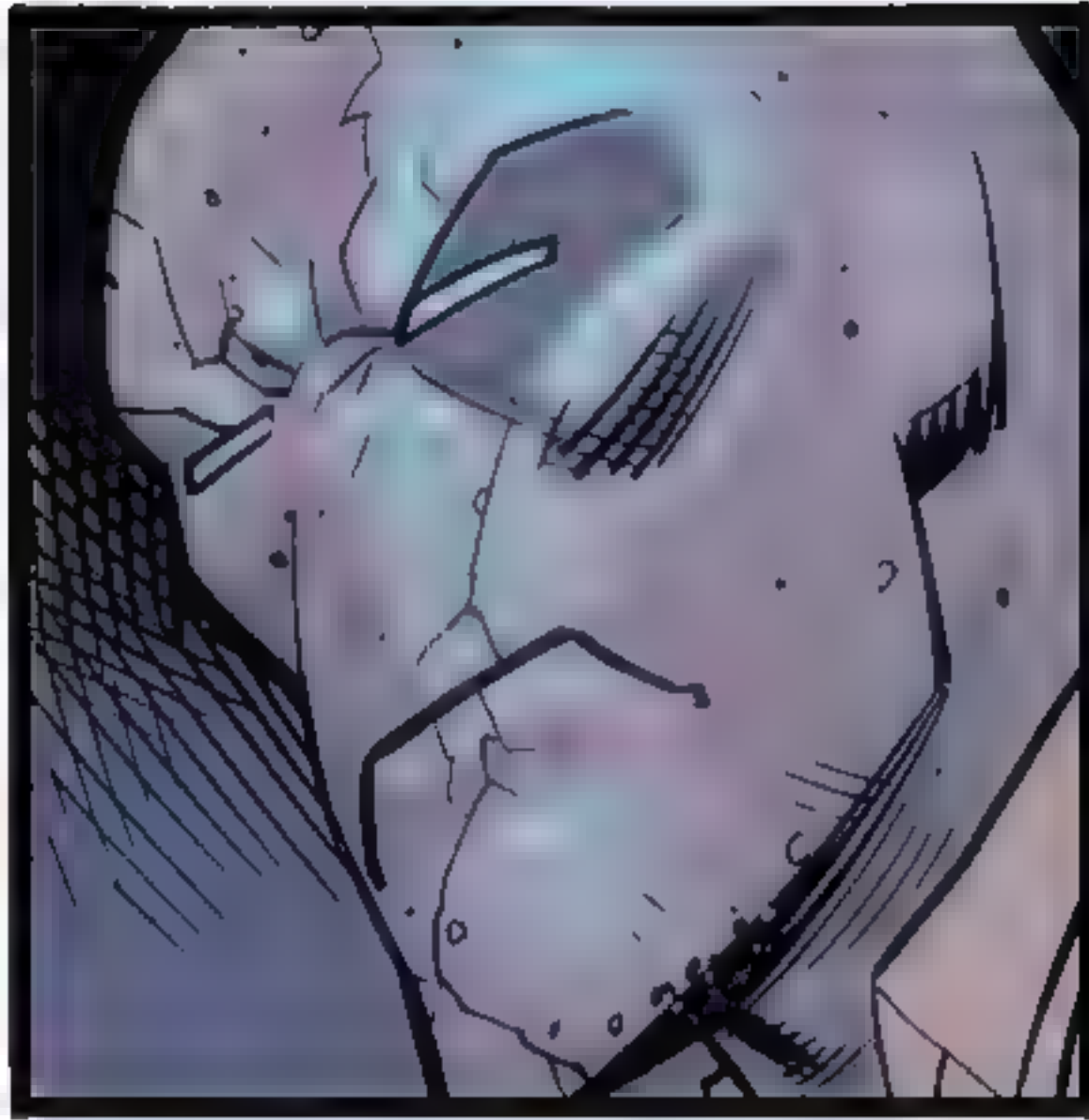
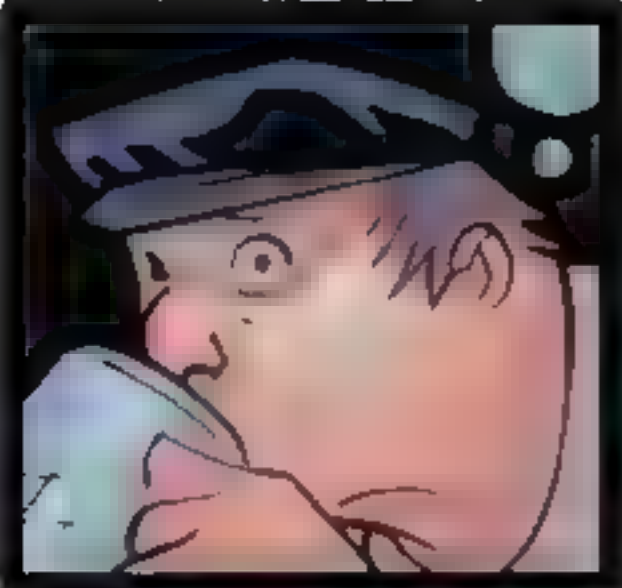


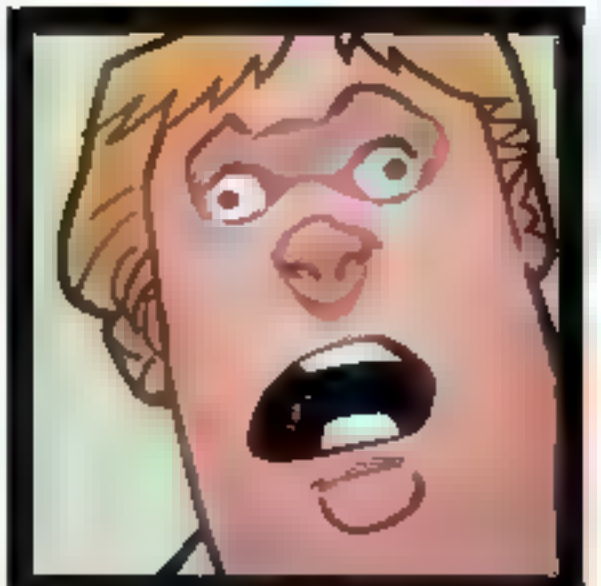
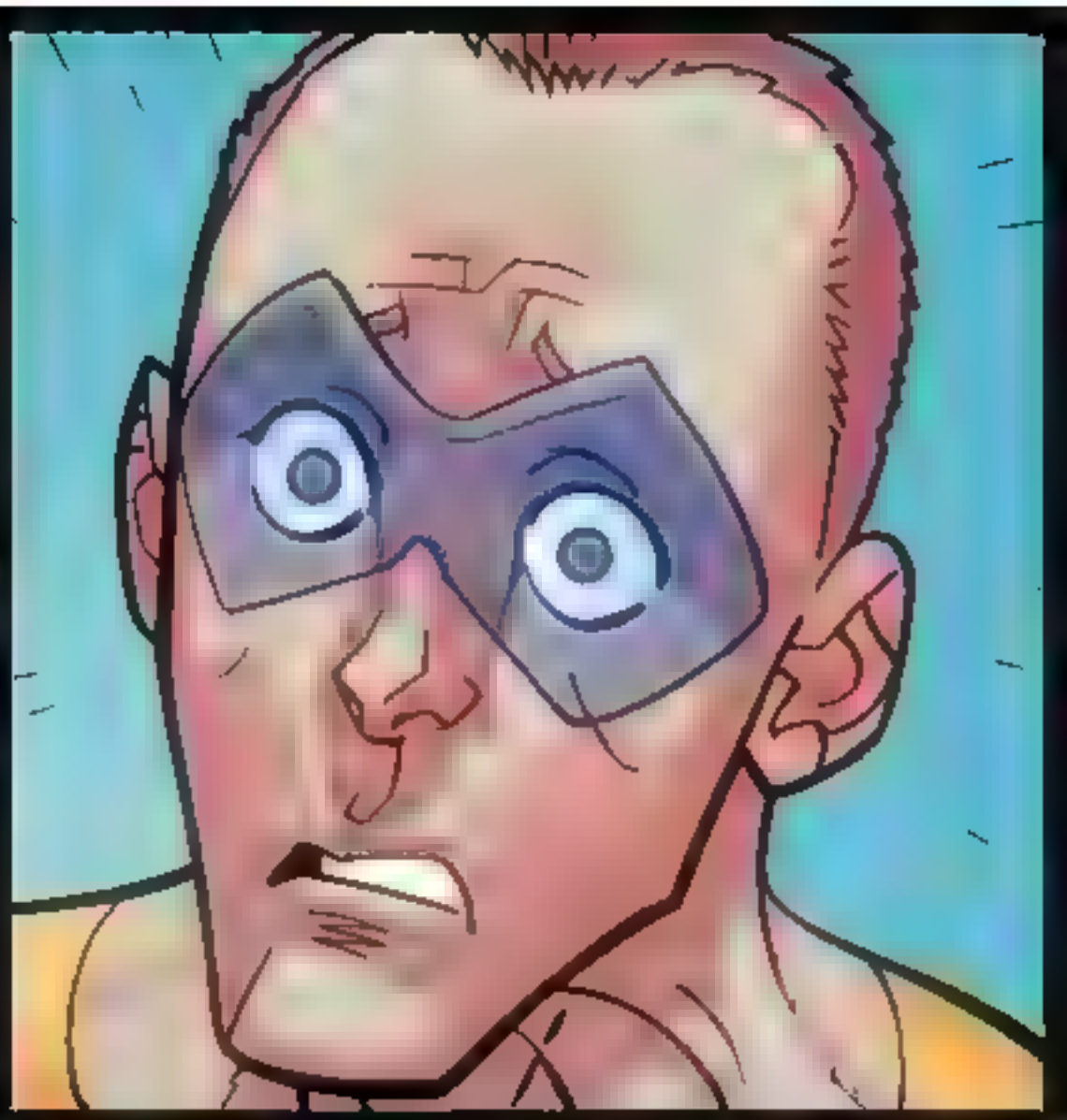
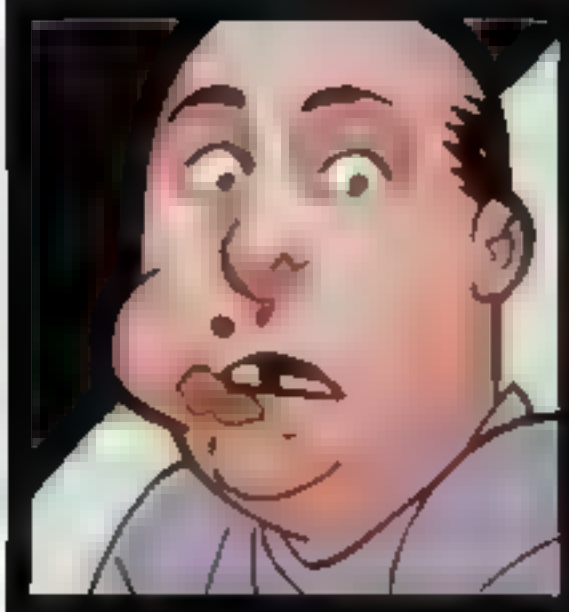
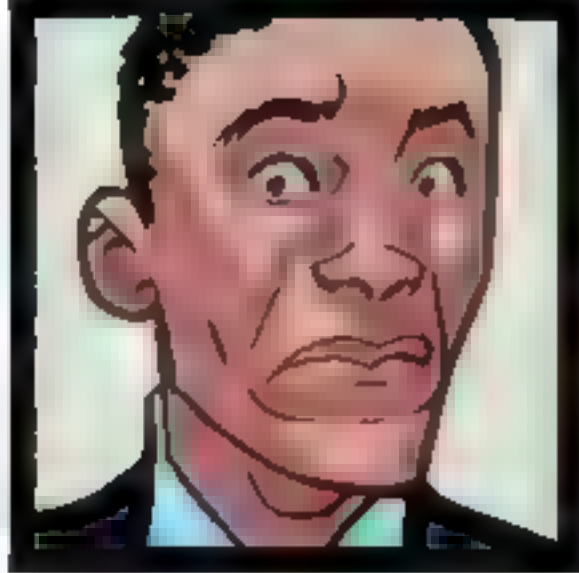
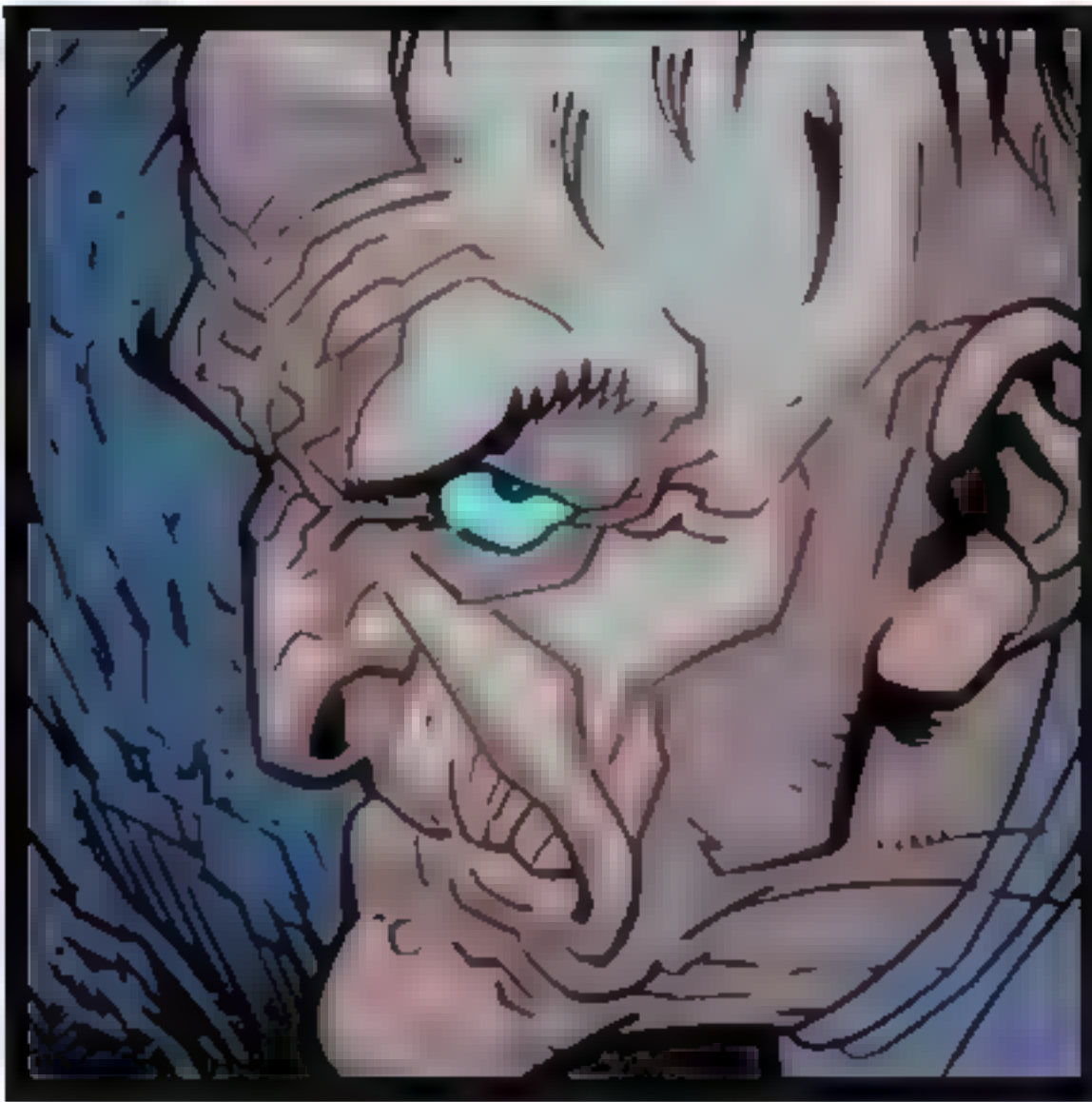
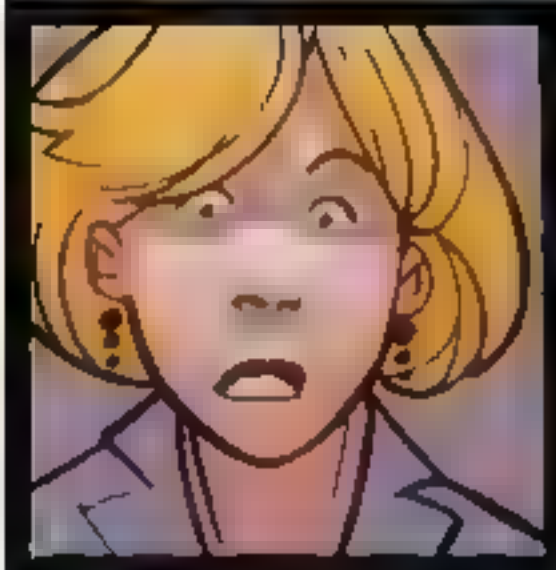
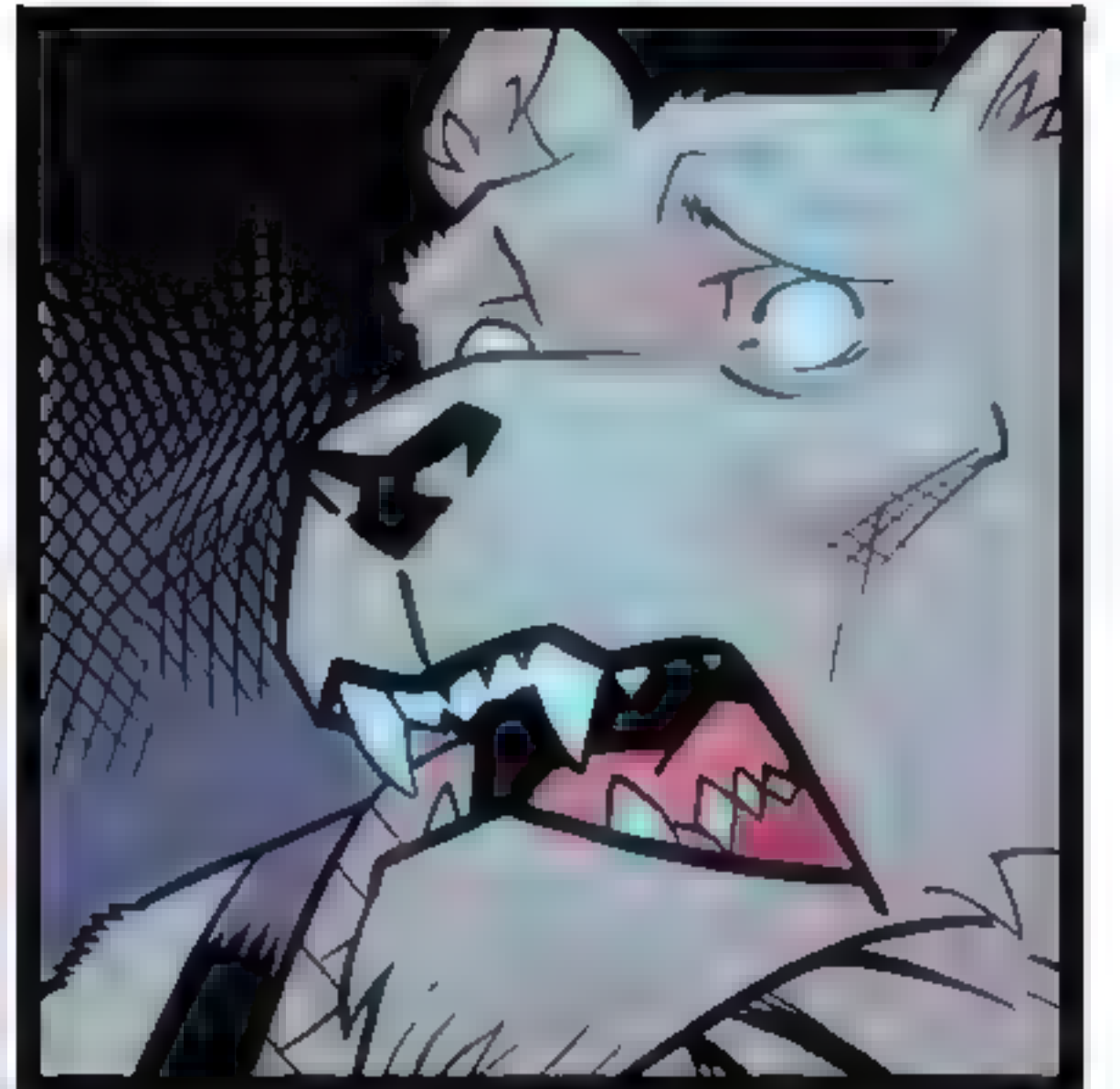


ARE WE
BROADCASTING
THIS?!

YEAH...
CHRIST...

WE'RE
BROADCASTING
THIS LIVE.

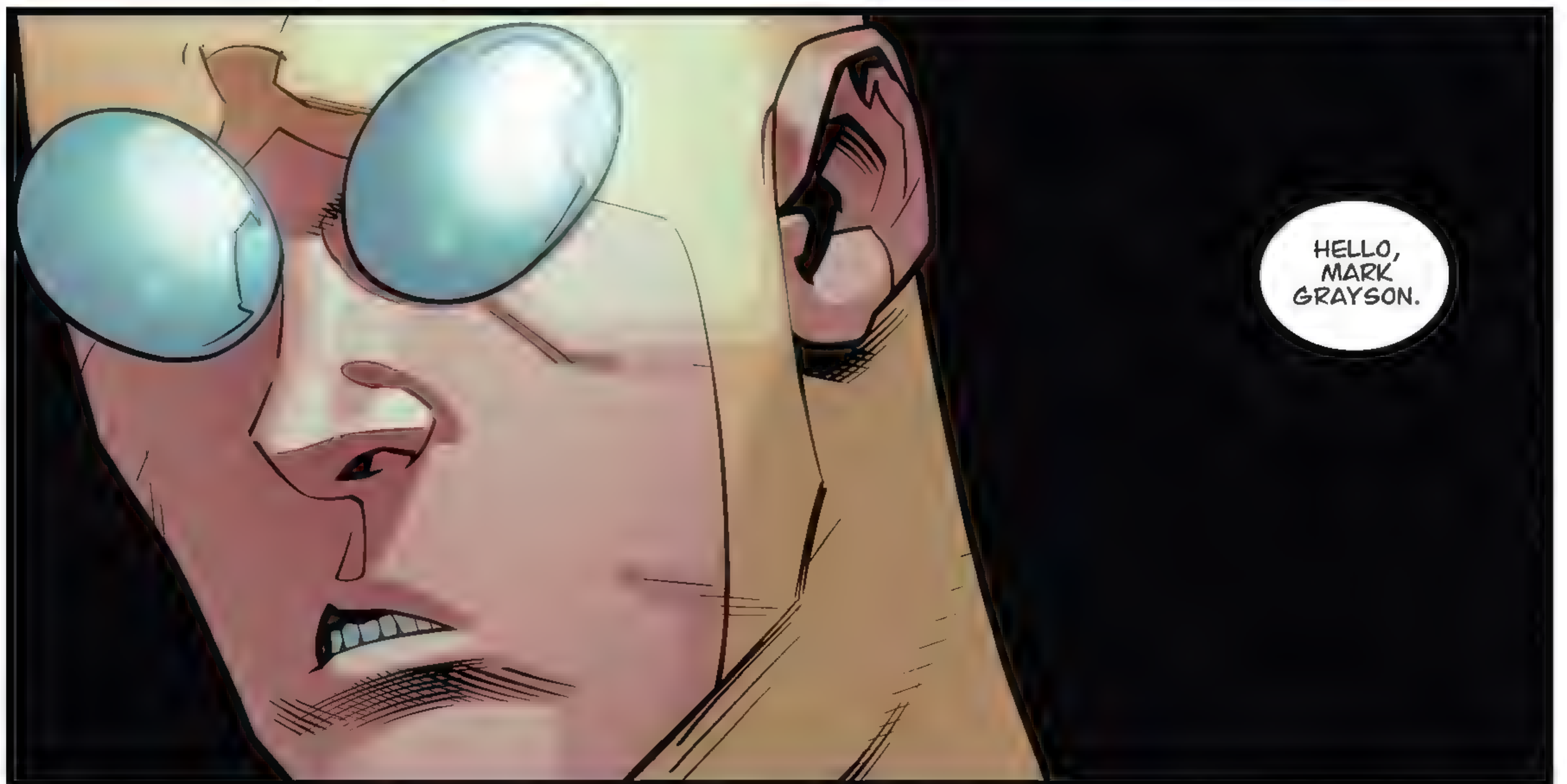


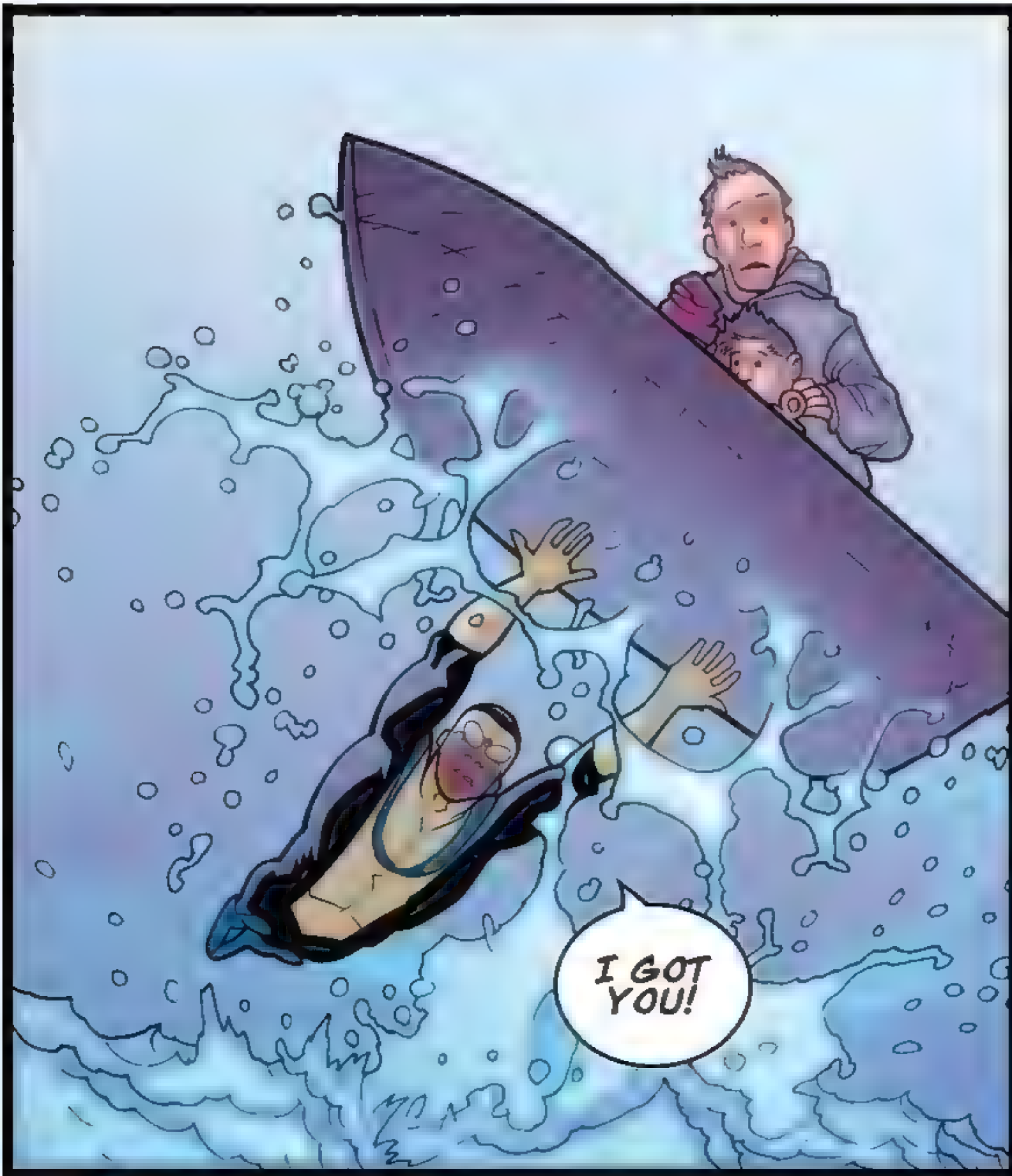
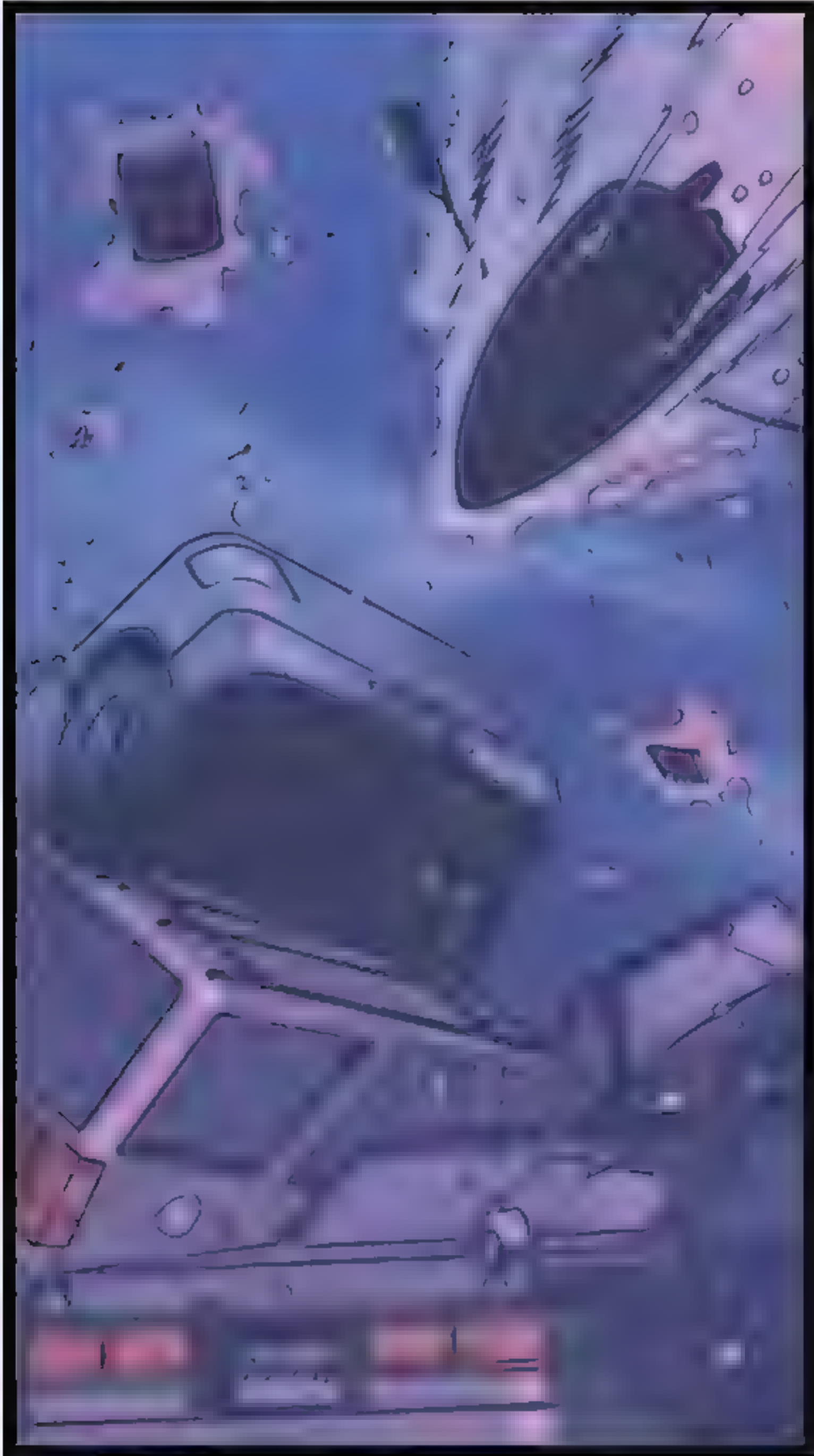
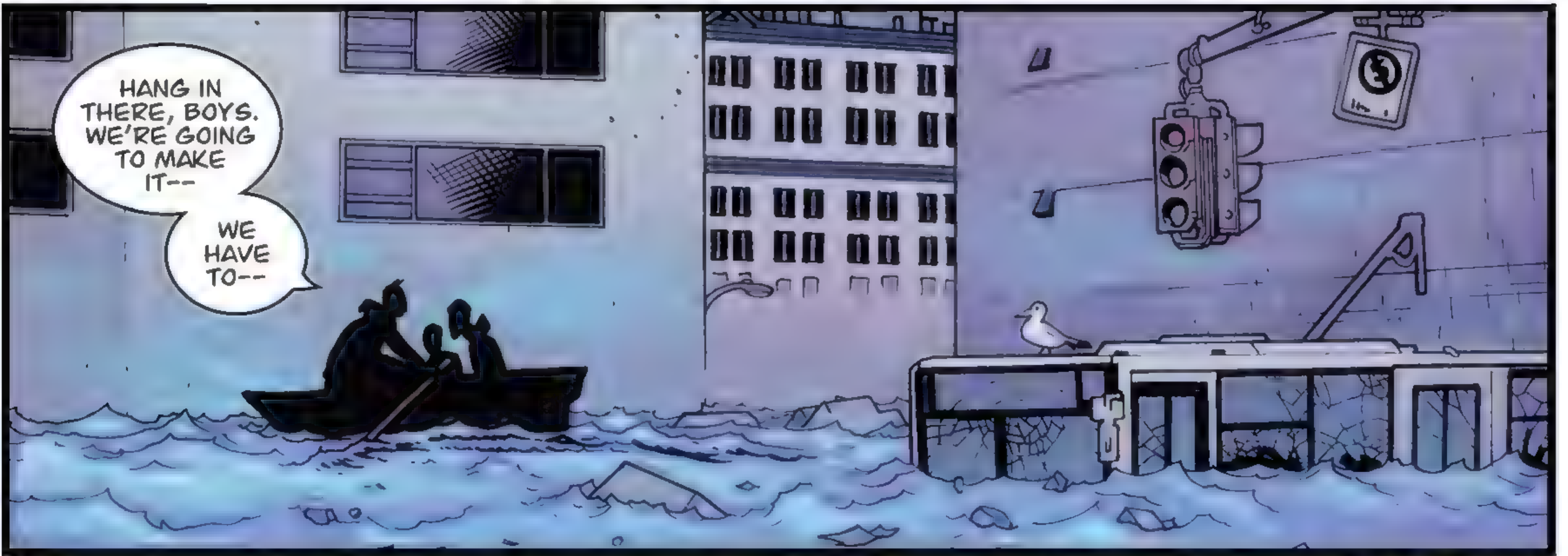




WHAT--?

WHERE
AM I?







I PROMISE
YOU, WE'RE
GOING AS
FAST AS WE
CAN.



WHO IS THAT?
WHERE AM I?

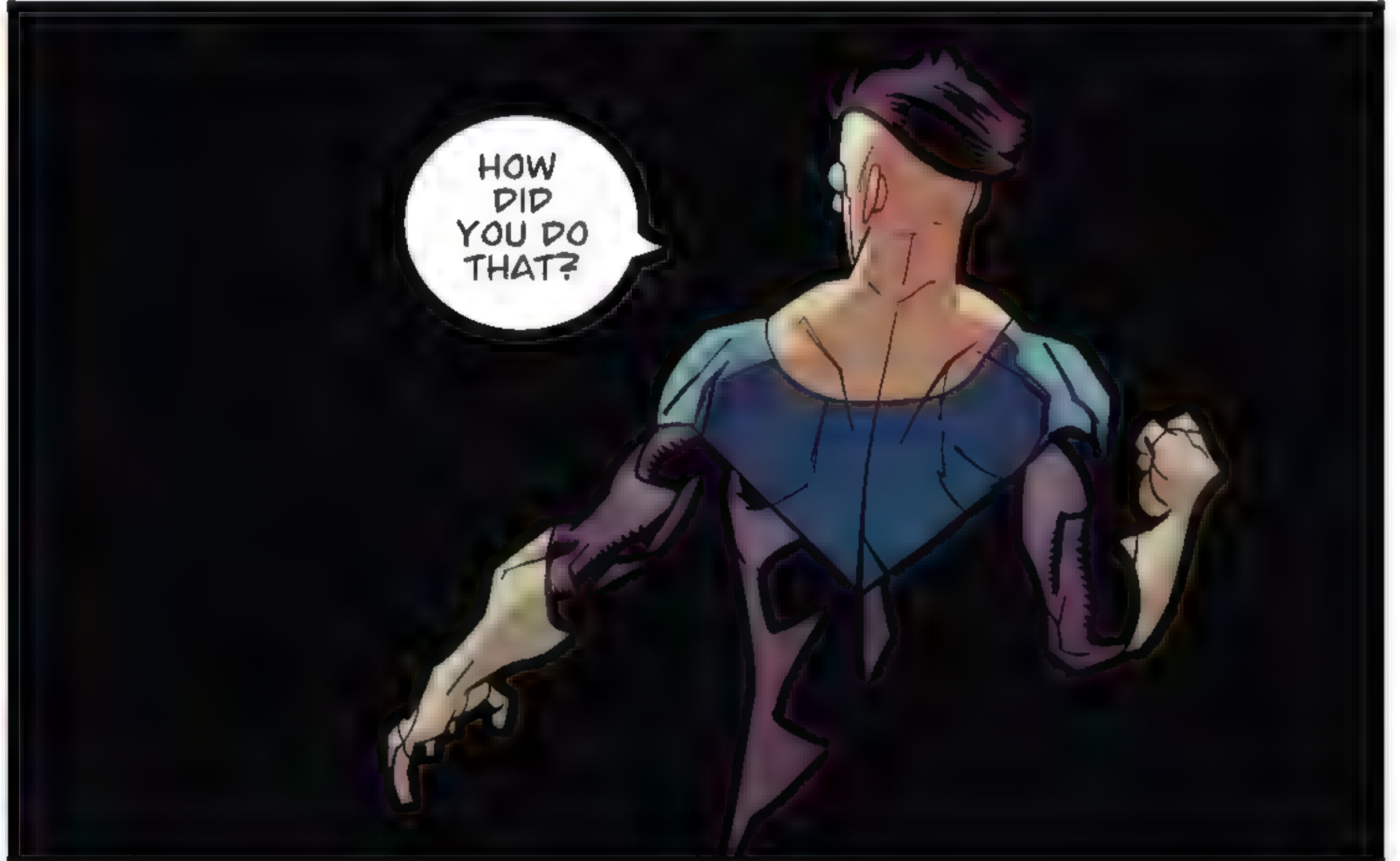
I REMEMBER THE BUILDING COLLAPSING...
AND THEN NOTHING. WHAT HAPPENED?

YOU DIED.



WHAT?!

OR AT LEAST...
I MADE EVERYONE THINK YOU DID.



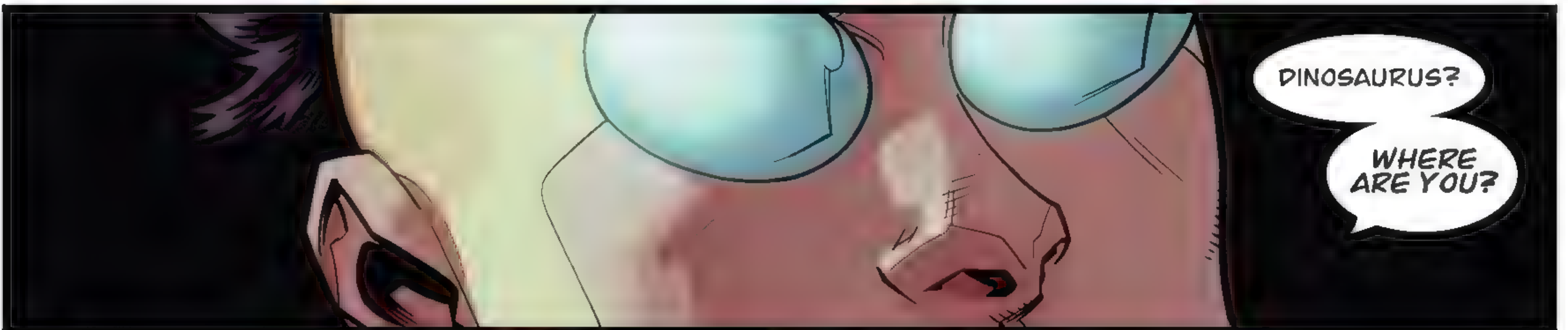
HOW DID YOU DO THAT?



I HAD ACCESS TO SO MUCH INFORMATION WHEN I WAS ON THAT VILTRUMITE SHIP. THEY WANTED ME TO SAVE YOU... THEY WERE SO... TRUSTING.

YOU THINK I WOULDN'T RAID THEIR DATABANKS FOR ALL THE VILTRUMITE INFORMATION I COULD?

I NOW KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR PEOPLE THAN YOU DO...



DINOSAURUS?

WHERE ARE YOU?



I'M
STANDING
RIGHT IN
FRONT OF
YOU.

I'M SURE YOU'VE REALIZED
THIS BY NOW, BUT AS A
CREATURE WITH THE NATURAL
ABILITY OF FLIGHT, VILTRUMITE
EQUILIBRIUM IS ACHIEVED
THROUGH AN IMPOSSIBLY
COMPLICATED AND
INCREDIBLY SENSITIVE
PROCESS IN YOUR
EARS.

YOUR
EARS ARE
YOUR WEAK
SPOT.

APPARENTLY
THERE'S A
FREQUENCY, WHEN
HEARD--IT PUTS
VILTRUMITES INTO A
COMA-LIKE STATE, A
WAKING DREAM--IT
ESSENTIALLY
DISCONNECTS YOUR
BODY FROM YOUR
MIND.

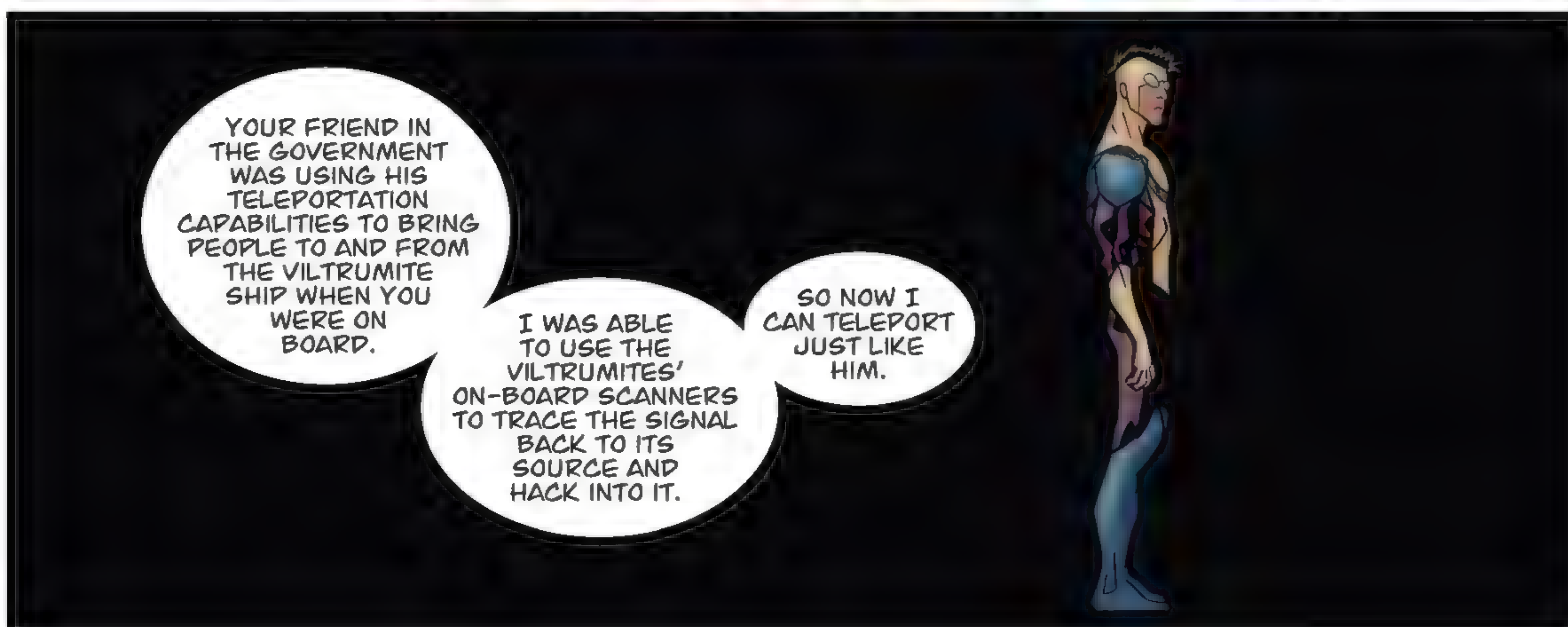
I'M TALKING
DIRECTLY TO YOUR
MIND RIGHT NOW...
WHICH TOOK WEEKS
FOR ME TO FIGURE
OUT HOW TO DO.



OKAY...
THAT MAKES
MAYBE A
LITTLE
SENSE.

WHY DOES
EVERYONE
THINK I'M
DEAD?

OH,
THAT...



YOUR FRIEND IN
THE GOVERNMENT
WAS USING HIS
TELEPORTATION
CAPABILITIES TO BRING
PEOPLE TO AND FROM
THE VILTRUMITE
SHIP WHEN YOU
WERE ON
BOARD.

I WAS ABLE
TO USE THE
VILTRUMITES'
ON-BOARD SCANNERS
TO TRACE THE SIGNAL
BACK TO ITS
SOURCE AND
HACK INTO IT.

SO NOW I
CAN TELEPORT
JUST LIKE
HIM.

I COLLECTED MORE THAN ENOUGH GENETIC MATERIAL TO CLONE YOU WHILE I WAS RUNNING MY TESTS. AND WHEN YOUR POWERS DIDN'T RETURN... I THOUGHT A VERSION OF YOU, IN WORKING ORDER... WOULD BE USEFUL.

SADLY, I HAVE NOT PERFECTED THE CLONING PROCESS. I SUCCEEDED IN CREATING LITTLE MORE THAN A LIFELESS, ORGANIC COPY OF YOU.

BUT IT WAS A VERY CONVINCING COPY.



"I USED A DOORWAY TO SWITCH BODIES WHILE THE BUILDING COLLAPSED.

"YOU WERE SENT HERE, WHERE THE FREQUENCY WAS ALREADY BEING BROADCAST TO PUT YOU IN THIS STATE.



"THEN I EVISCERATED YOUR VERY CONVINCING CLONE IN FRONT OF A WORLDWIDE AUDIENCE."*

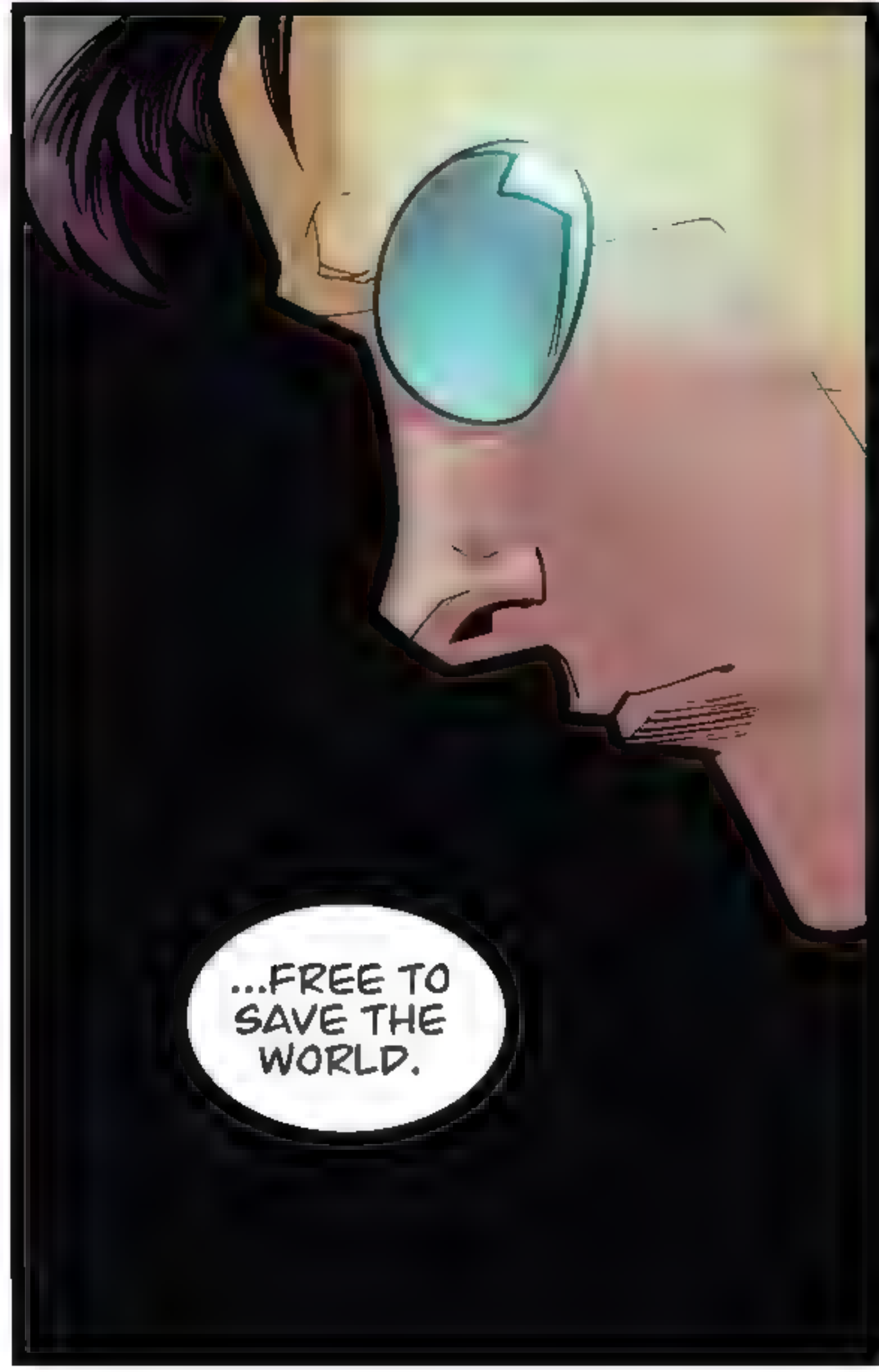
*IT HAPPENED IN THIS VERY ISSUE!



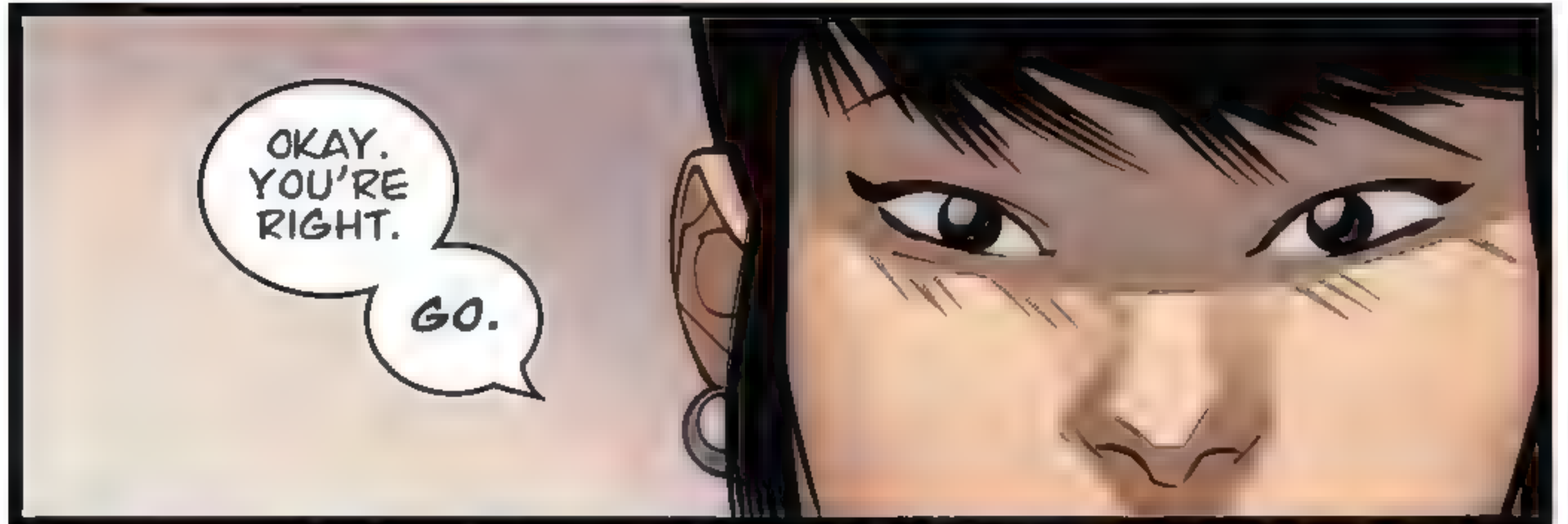
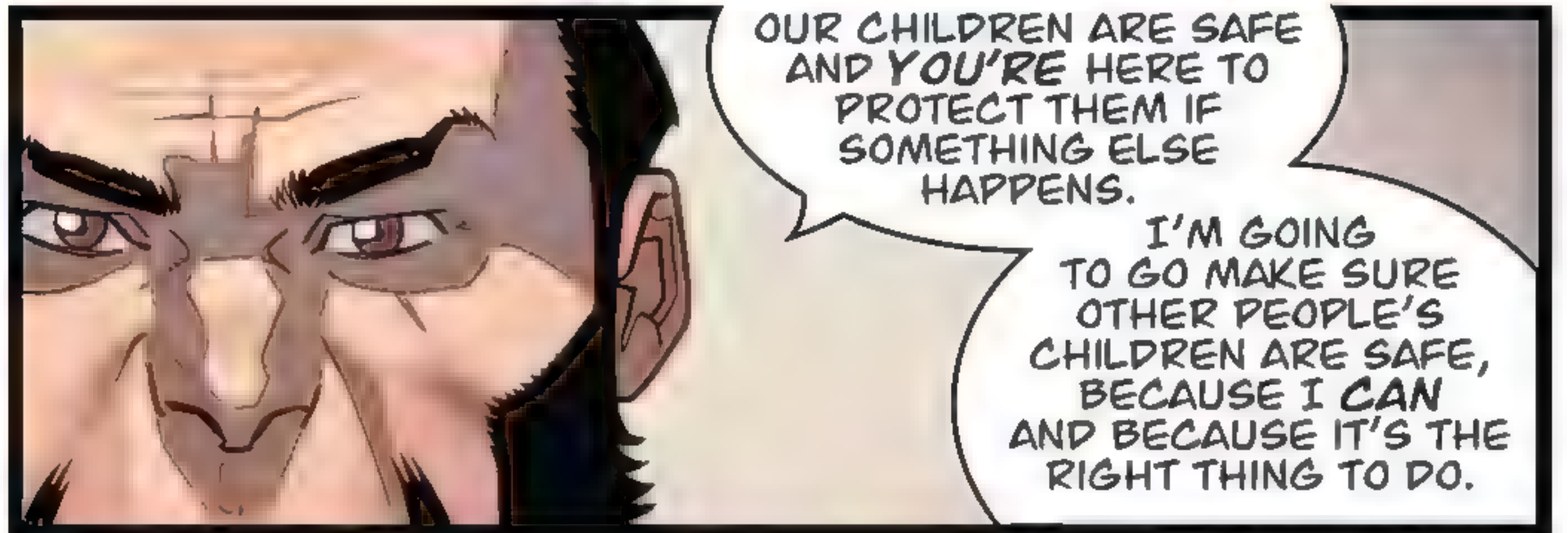
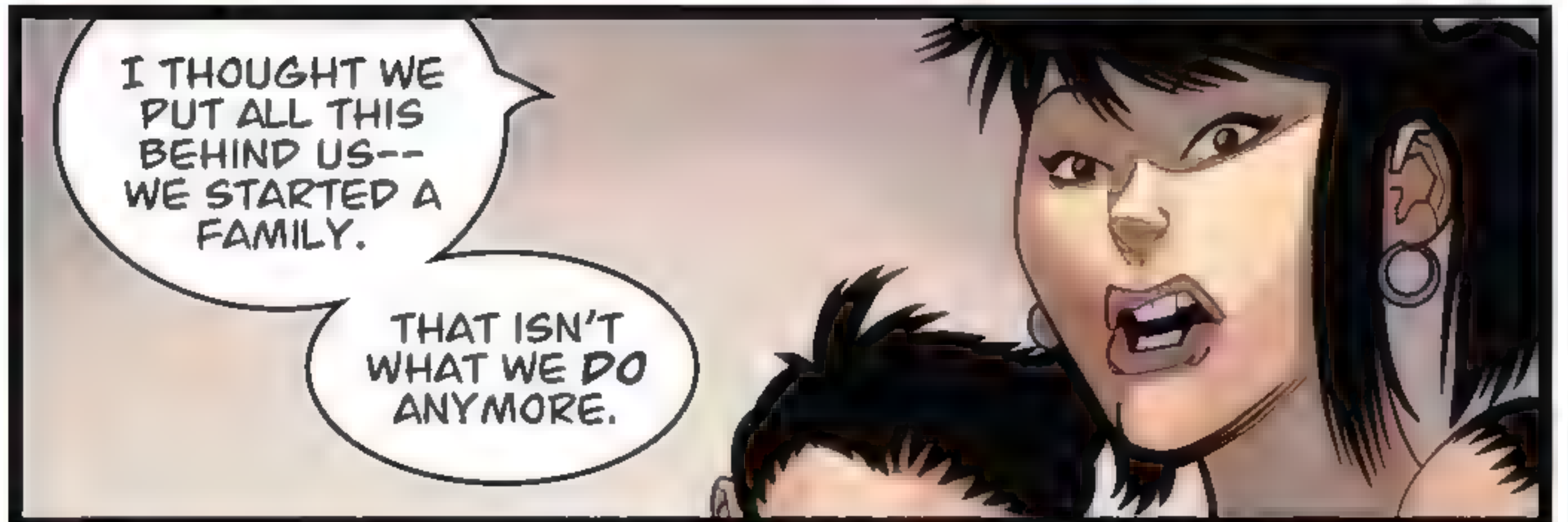
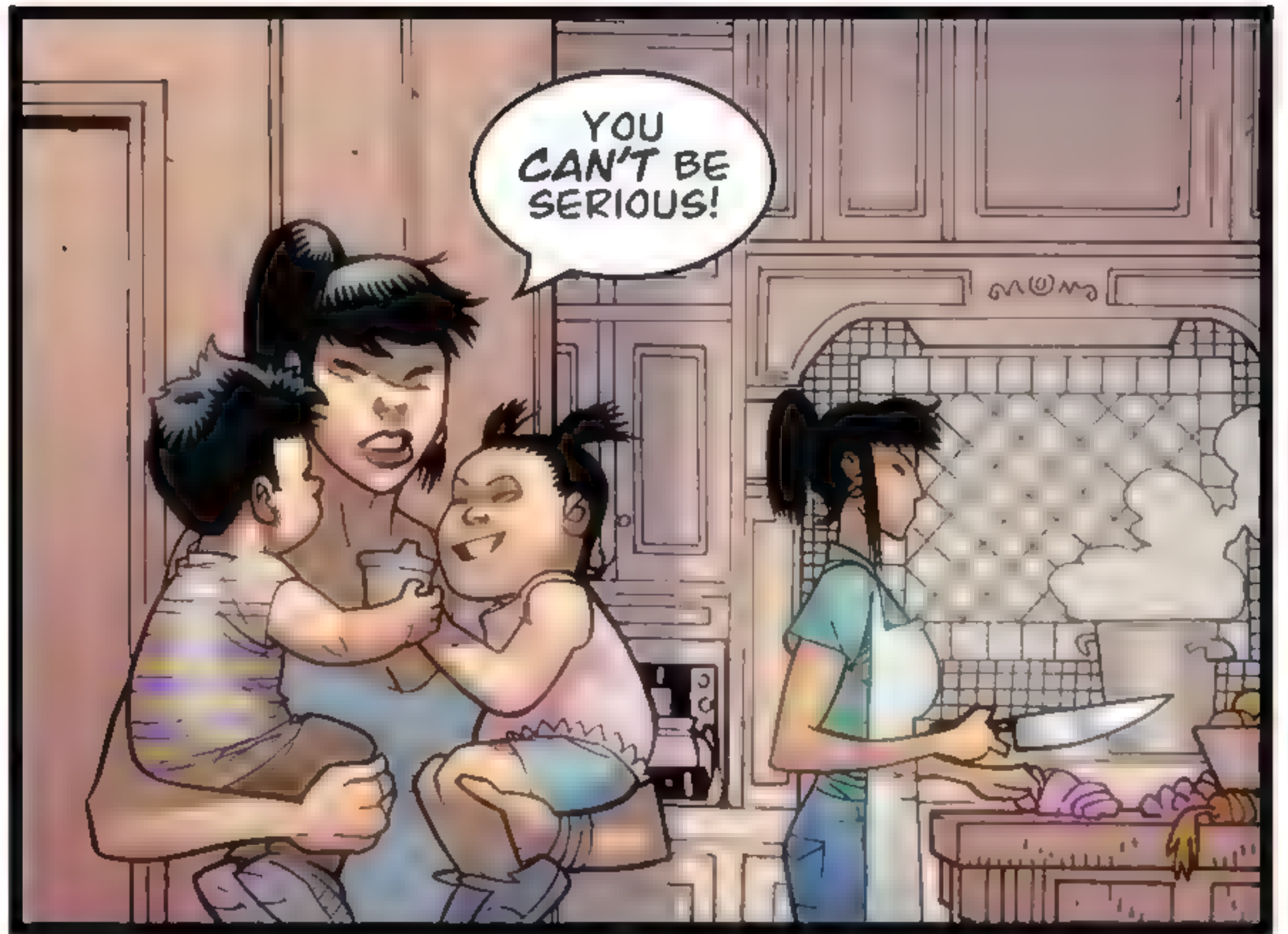
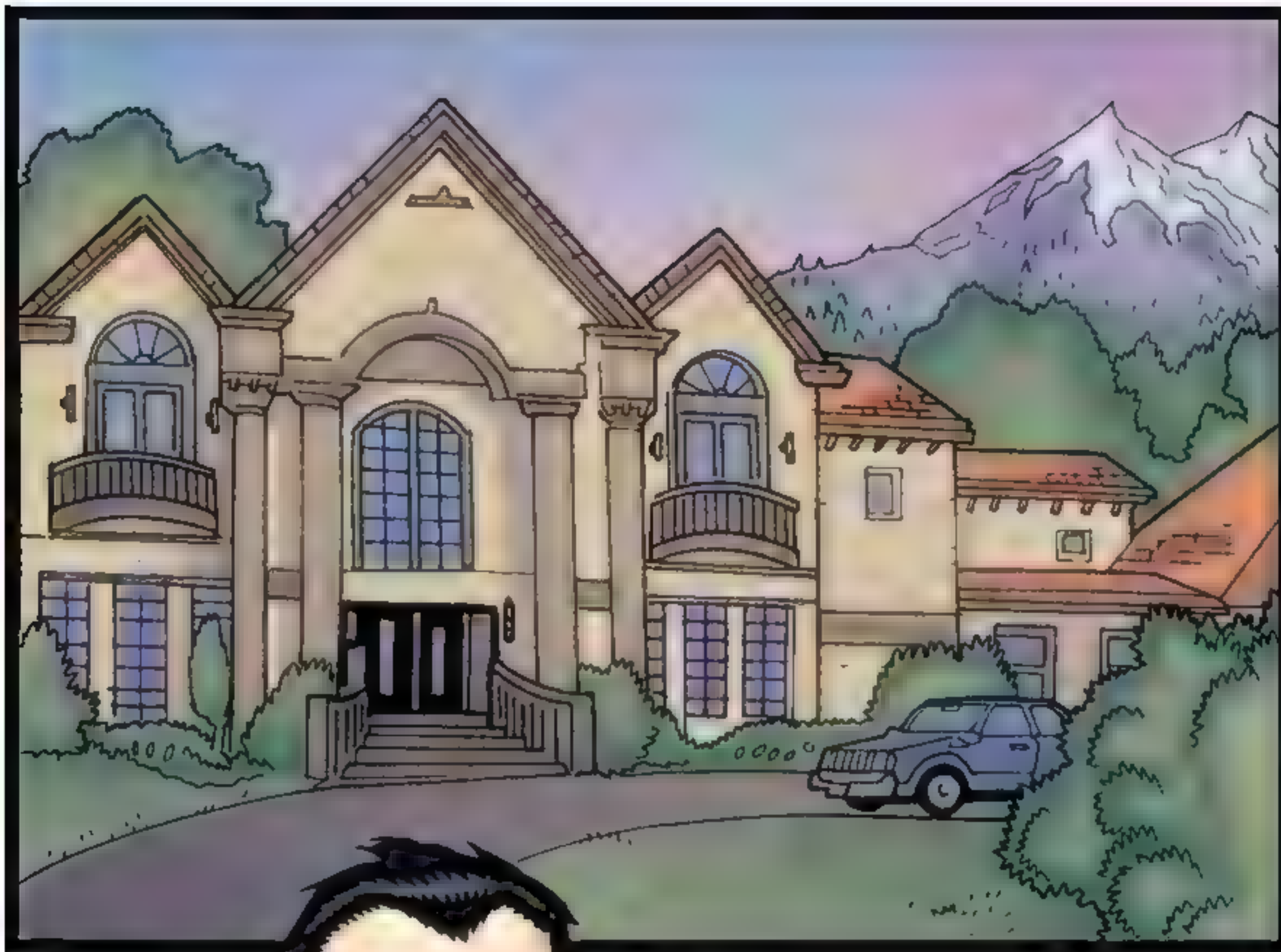
DON'T YOU GET WHAT I'VE DONE? I'VE FREED YOU FROM ALL OBLIGATIONS. YOU HAVE NO DISTRACTIONS NOW.

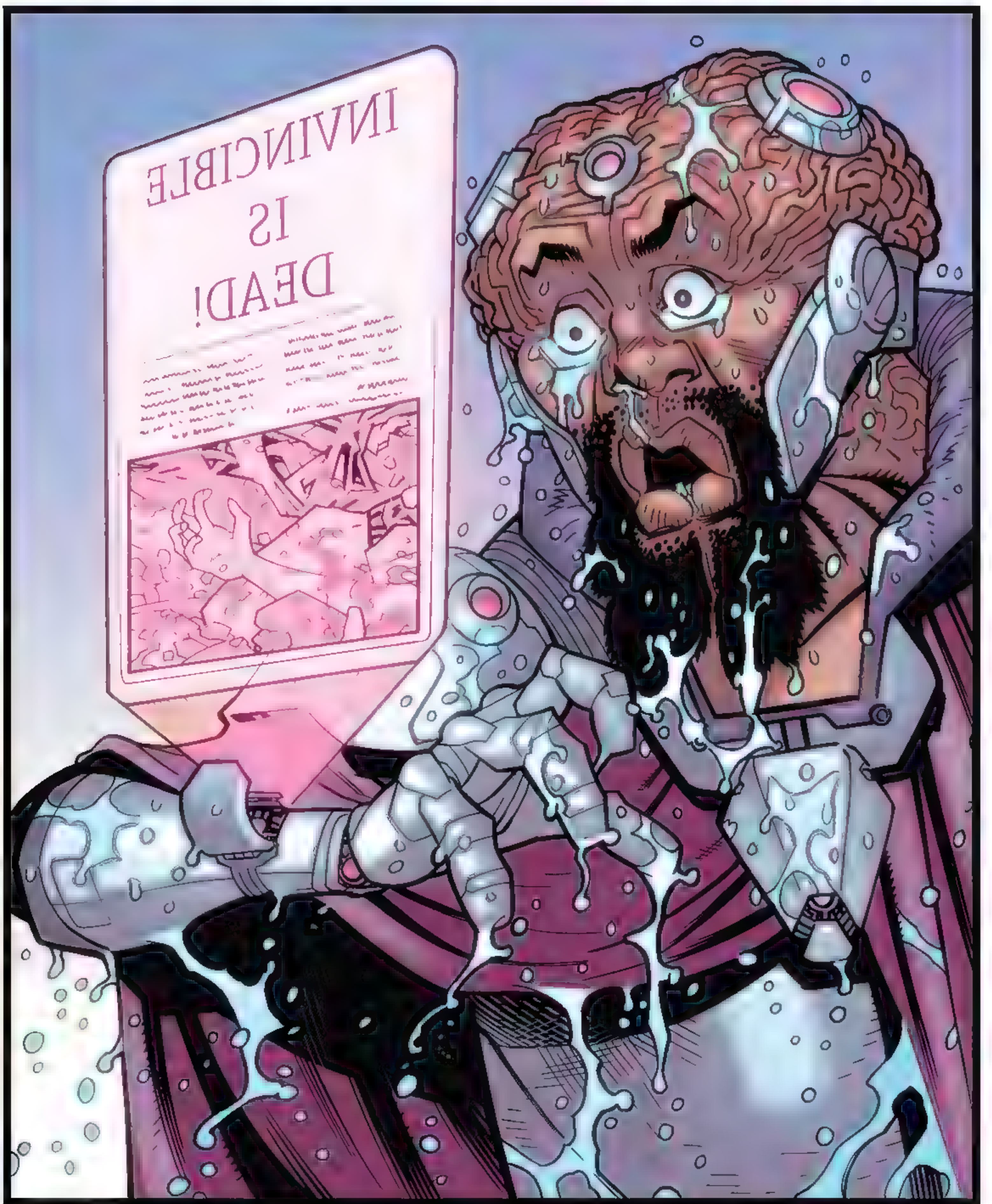
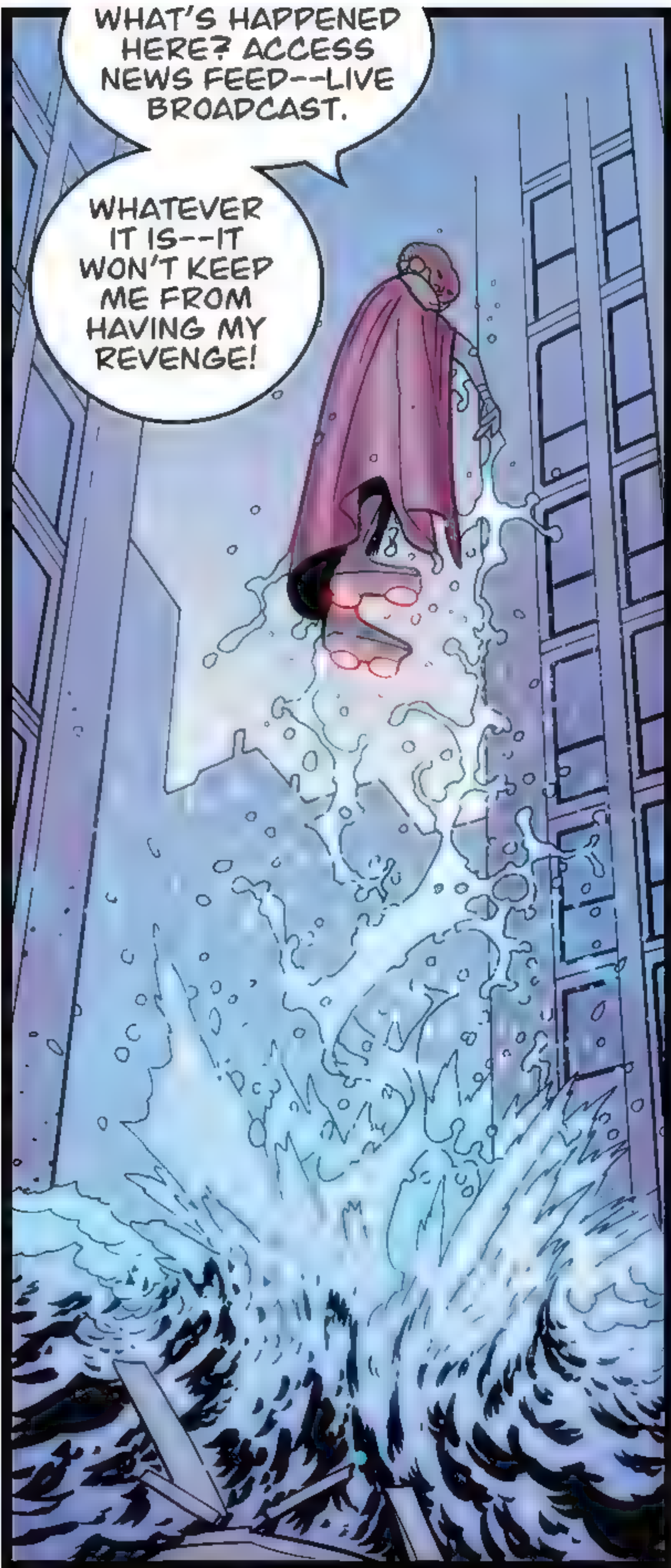
YOU DON'T HAVE TO ANSWER TO ANYONE. YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE THERE FOR ANYONE. YOU'RE NO LONGER THE VILLAIN-- YOU DIDN'T CAUSE THIS, YOU DIED TRYING TO DEFEAT THE ONE WHO DID... YOU'RE A MARTYR.

NO ONE WILL COME AFTER YOU. YOU'RE FREE. FREE TO WORK WITH ME... FREE TO CONTINUE OUR PLANS...



...FREE TO SAVE THE WORLD.







AFTER ALL THIS... YOU REALLY BELIEVE WE COULD STILL WORK TOGETHER?! YOU THINK I COULD JUST... FORGIVE AND FORGET?!

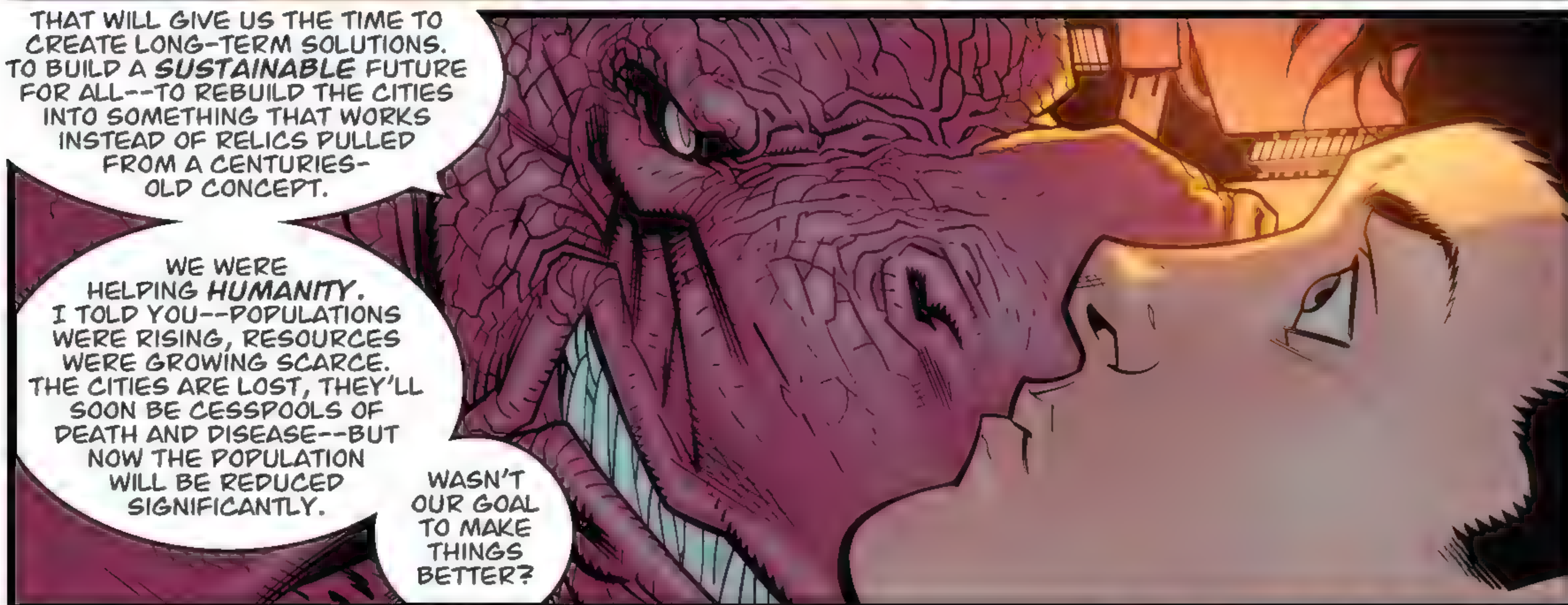
YOU PLAYED ME--YOU... I TRUSTED YOU. I THOUGHT YOU HAD IDEAS, THAT YOU COULD... DO GOOD--AND YOU THREW ALL THAT AWAY.

WE WERE SUPPOSED TO HELP PEOPLE-- NOT KILL THEM.

THAT WILL GIVE US THE TIME TO CREATE LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS. TO BUILD A **SUSTAINABLE** FUTURE FOR ALL--TO REBUILD THE CITIES INTO SOMETHING THAT WORKS INSTEAD OF RELICS PULLED FROM A CENTURIES-OLD CONCEPT.

WE WERE HELPING **HUMANITY**. I TOLD YOU--POPULATIONS WERE RISING, RESOURCES WERE GROWING SCARCE. THE CITIES ARE LOST, THEY'LL SOON BE CESSPOOLS OF DEATH AND DISEASE--BUT NOW THE POPULATION WILL BE REDUCED SIGNIFICANTLY.

WASN'T OUR GOAL TO MAKE THINGS BETTER?



YOU SACRIFICED A LOT OF PEOPLE-- ON A THEORY. WHAT IF YOU'RE WRONG? DID YOU EVER STOP TO CONSIDER THAT?



I'M NOT WRONG.

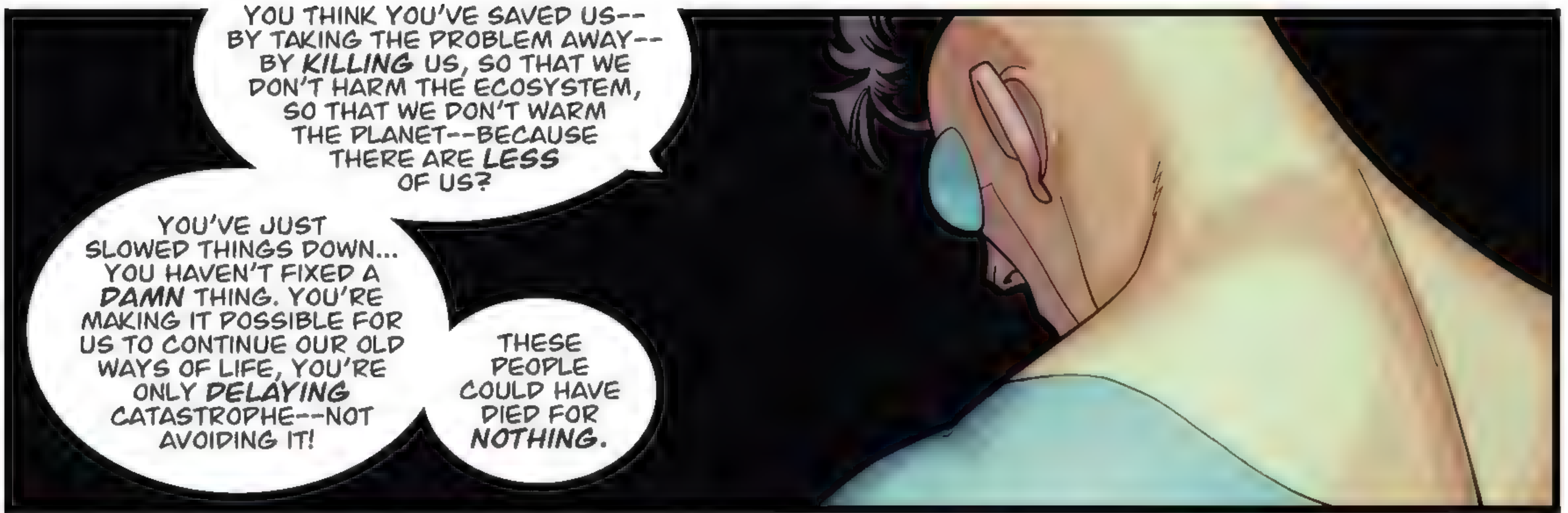
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.



WHAT IF EVERYTHING YOU'VE DONE, ALL THE WORK PUT TOWARD FIXING THINGS... WHAT IF THAT'S THE EXACT **OPPOSITE** OF WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN?

THE COMING CRISIS WAS FORCING PEOPLE TO RETHINK **EVERYTHING**. IT HAD US CONSIDERING NEW WAYS OF LIFE, NEW WAYS TO FIND ENERGY, TO SURVIVE ON THIS PLANET.

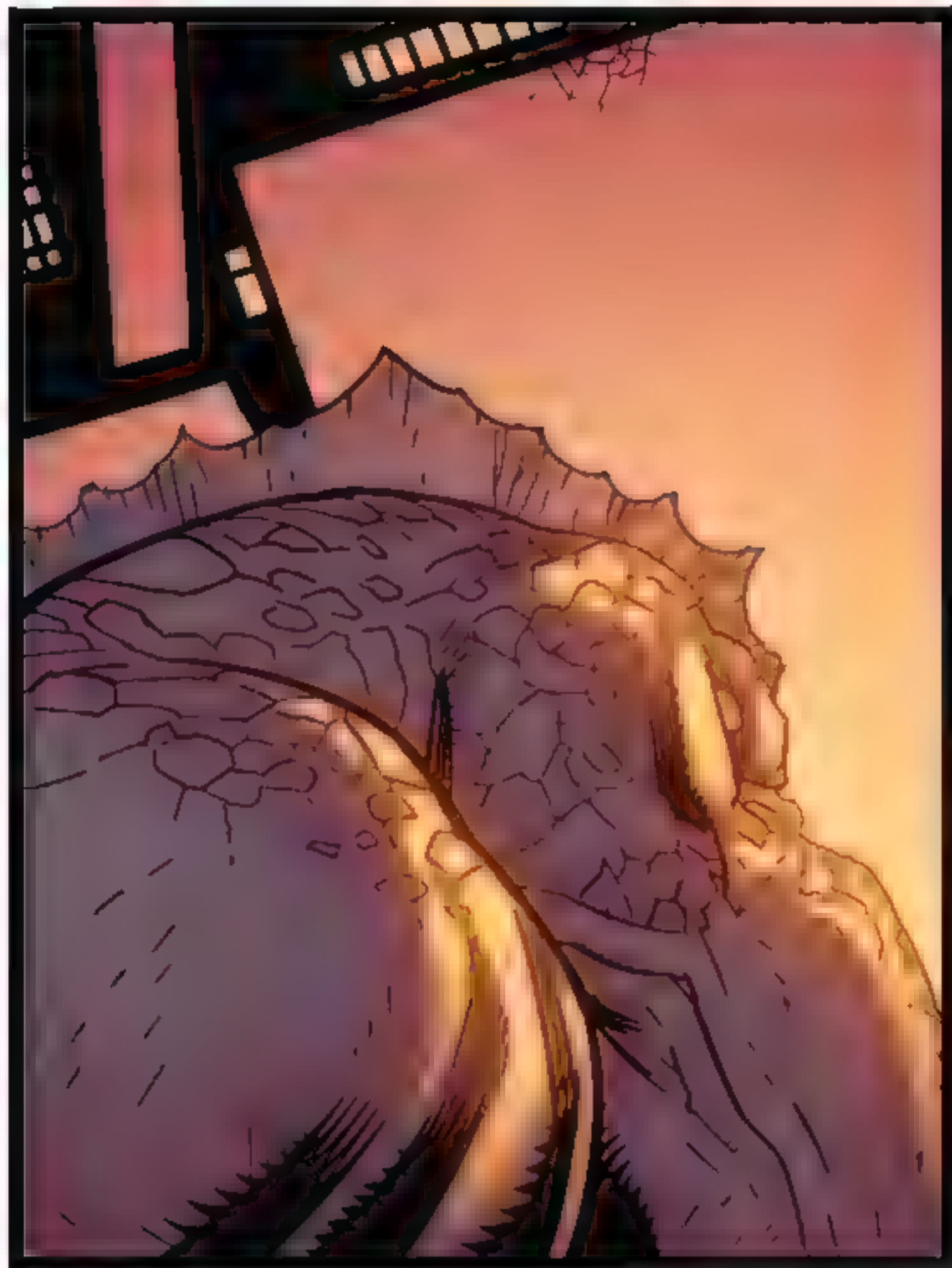
IT WAS CAUSING US TO REFORM, TO CHANGE OUR OLD WAYS... TO GROW... TO ADAPT.



YOU THINK YOU'VE SAVED US--
BY TAKING THE PROBLEM AWAY--
BY **KILLING** US, SO THAT WE
DON'T HARM THE ECOSYSTEM,
SO THAT WE DON'T WARM
THE PLANET--BECAUSE
THERE ARE **LESS**
OF US?

YOU'VE JUST
SLOWED THINGS DOWN...
YOU HAVEN'T FIXED A
DAMN THING. YOU'RE
MAKING IT POSSIBLE FOR
US TO CONTINUE OUR OLD
WAYS OF LIFE, YOU'RE
ONLY **DELAYING**
CATASTROPHE--NOT
AVOIDING IT!

THESE
PEOPLE
COULD HAVE
DIED FOR
NOTHING.



THINK
ABOUT
THAT.

MAYBE
YOU DON'T
HAVE ALL THE
ANSWERS.



THE VILLAIN ALWAYS THINKS
HE'S THE HERO IN HIS STORY.
I'VE BEEN ARGUING AND
FIGHTING WITH PEOPLE,
TRYING TO JUSTIFY
WHY WE'RE WORKING
TOGETHER.

I'VE TOLD PEOPLE
THAT OUR PLANS ARE
SOUND, THAT OUR
GOALS ARE JUST...
TRYING TO **CONVINCE**
THEM THAT WE KNEW
WHAT WE WERE
DOING...

...ALL THAT
TIME, I THINK I
WAS JUST TRYING
TO CONVINCE MYSELF
I HADN'T TURNED...
HADN'T LOST
SIGHT OF WHO
I WAS--



--HADN'T
BECOME
THE **BAD GUY**
IN MY OWN
STORY.

WELL,
NEWS-
FLASH... WE
WERE...
WE ARE.

AND WE'RE
BOTH GOING
TO HAVE TO
PAY FOR OUR
ACTIONS.

HELLO?
ARE YOU STILL
LISTENING?



WHAT?!

HUH?



YOU'LL BE
DISORIENTED
FOR A
MOMENT.

WHAT
HAPPENED?
MACHINE
BREAK?

ARE WE
GOING
TO FIGHT
AGAIN
NOW?

NO...
AND NO.
I SET YOU
FREE.



YOU'RE
RIGHT.

I CAN
SEE THAT
NOW.



WHAT?

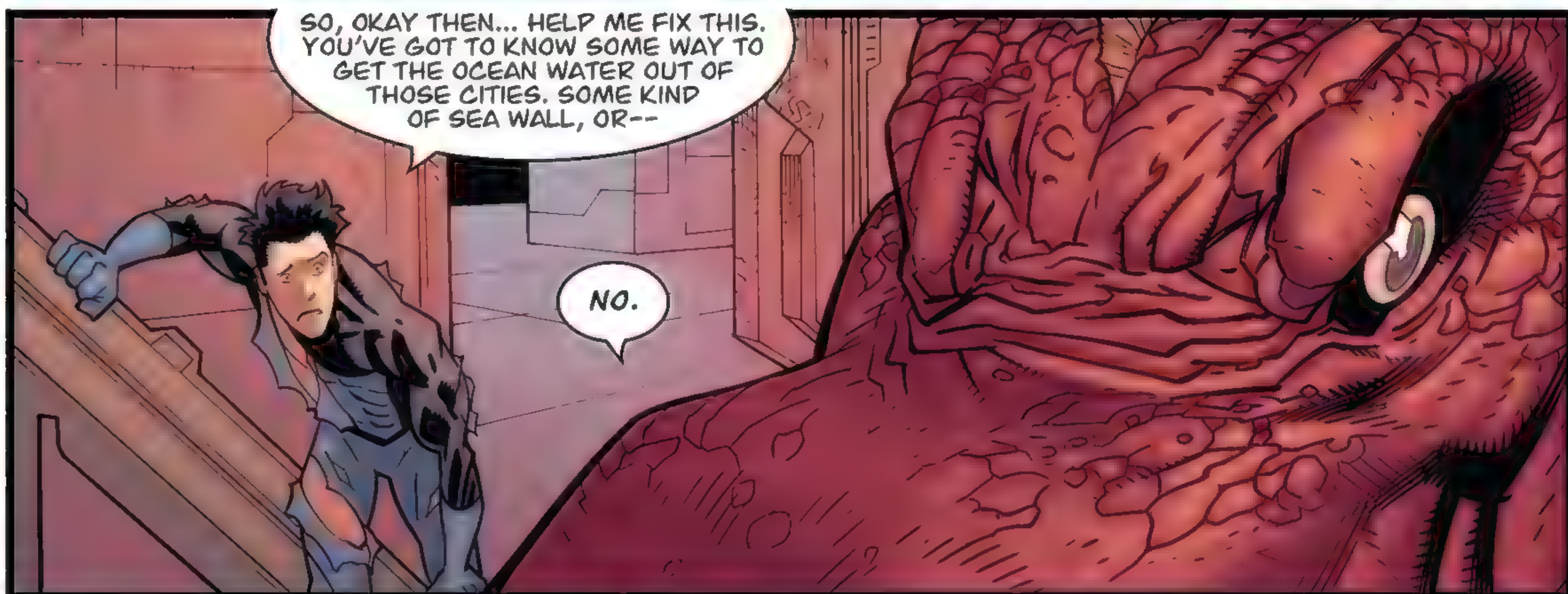
REALLY?!



THROUGH ALL THIS... I'VE... DISTANCED MYSELF, GROWN BEYOND WHAT I ONCE WAS... I SEE MYSELF AS ABOVE THOSE I TRY TO HELP. LIKE A GOD BESTOWING WISDOM ON HIS... FLOCK.

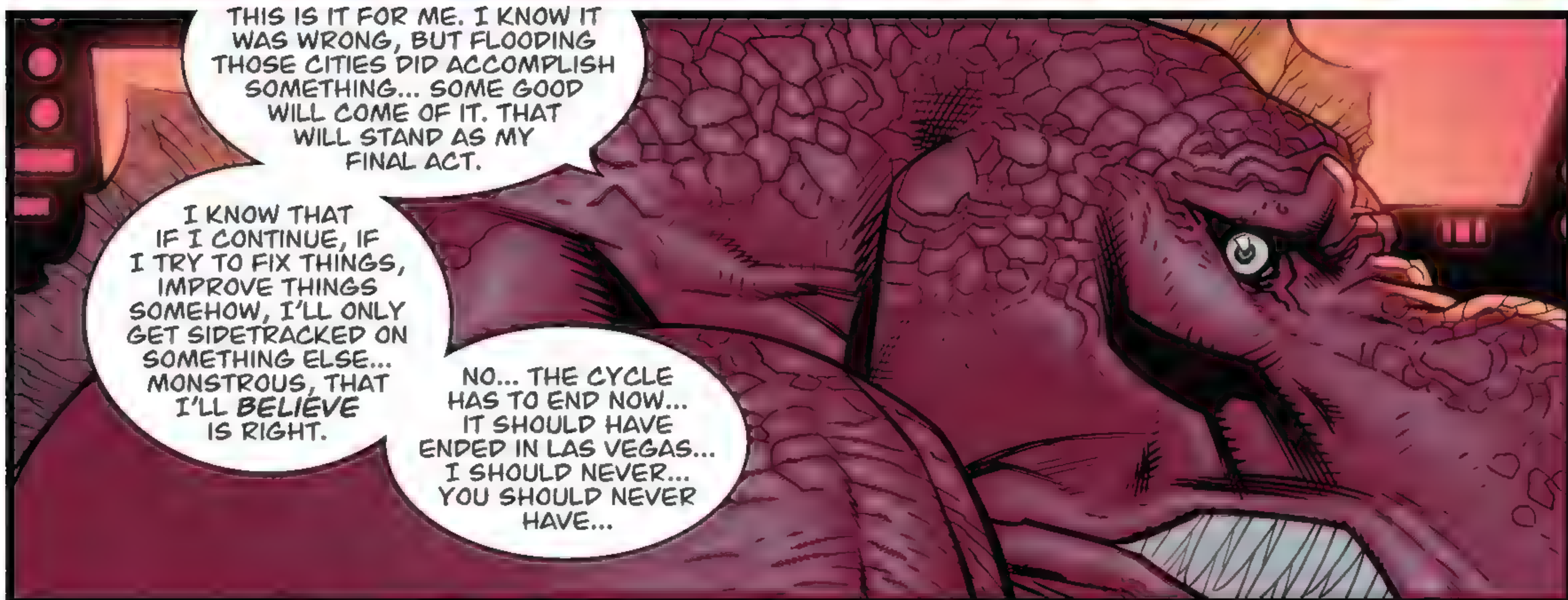
I WAS NEVER DOING GOOD FOR THE SAKE OF DOING IT, I WAS ONLY EVER SERVING TO INFLATE MY OWN EGO.

I NEVER FULLY REALIZED THAT UNTIL NOW...



SO, OKAY THEN... HELP ME FIX THIS. YOU'VE GOT TO KNOW SOME WAY TO GET THE OCEAN WATER OUT OF THOSE CITIES. SOME KIND OF SEA WALL, OR--

NO.



THIS IS IT FOR ME. I KNOW IT WAS WRONG, BUT FLOODING THOSE CITIES DID ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING... SOME GOOD WILL COME OF IT. THAT WILL STAND AS MY FINAL ACT.

I KNOW THAT IF I CONTINUE, IF I TRY TO FIX THINGS, IMPROVE THINGS SOMEHOW, I'LL ONLY GET SIDETRACKED ON SOMETHING ELSE... MONSTROUS, THAT I'LL BELIEVE IS RIGHT.

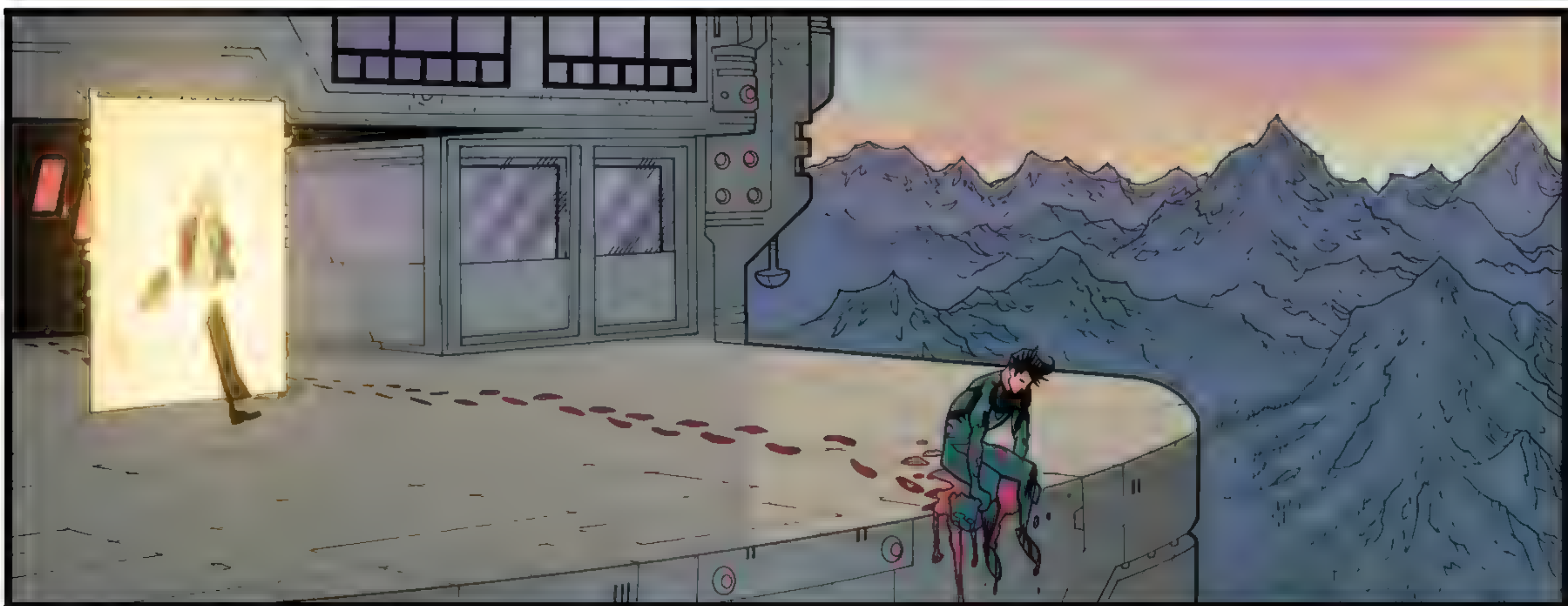
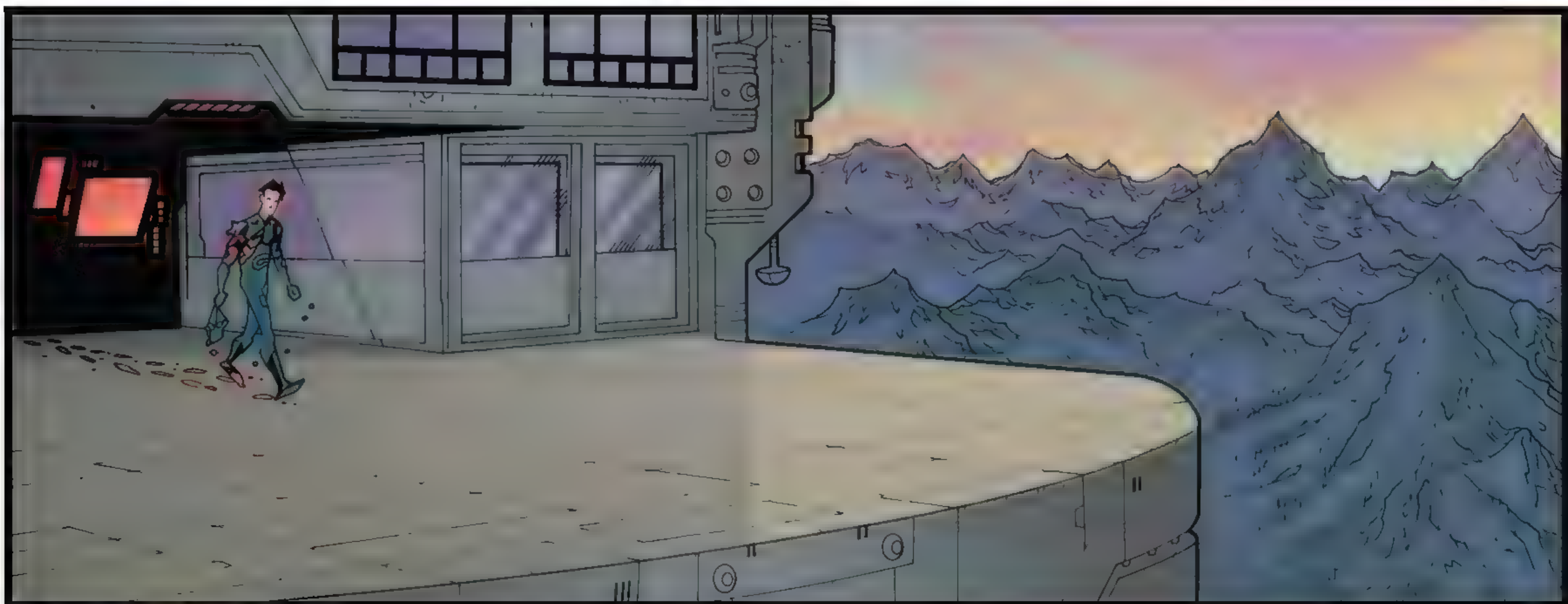
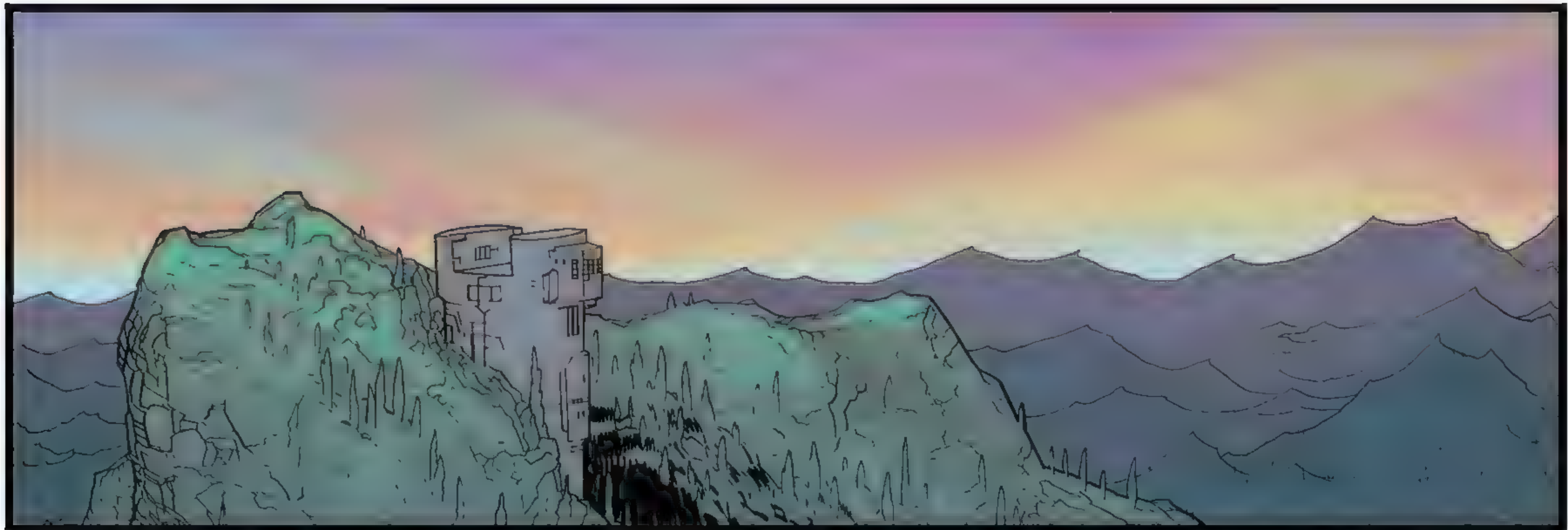
NO... THE CYCLE HAS TO END NOW... IT SHOULD HAVE ENDED IN LAS VEGAS... I SHOULD NEVER... YOU SHOULD NEVER HAVE...



SO... WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?



YOU HAVE TO KILL ME.



WELL, YOU'VE REALLY DONE IT **THIS** TIME, MARK. IN A ROUNDABOUT WAY... **YOU DID THIS**... YOU CAUSED... ALL OF THIS. I HAD THAT MANIAC TUCKED AWAY. YOU **FREED HIM**. YOU CONVINCED ME YOU HAD THIS UNDER CONTROL.

I DON'T MEAN TO RUB IT IN YOUR FACE, LORD KNOWS I'VE MADE MY SHARE OF CATASTROPHIC MISTAKES. I KNOW THIS HAS GOT TO BE WEIGHING ON YOU... BUT I JUST HAVE TO ASK, KID...

STILL FEEL LIKE YOU KNOW WHAT'S BEST?

STILL FEEL LIKE A MORAL AUTHORITY-- THAT YOU KNOW WHAT'S **RIGHT** FOR THE WORLD?

NO.

WELL... THAT'S A START.

WHAT COMES NEXT... THAT'S UP TO YOU.

I ASSUME I'LL GO TO JAIL... I DON'T EXPECT TO BE ABLE TO SKATE PAST THIS ONE. A LOT OF PEOPLE DIED HERE... AND I FEEL LIKE I **SHOULD** PAY FOR MY CRIMES.

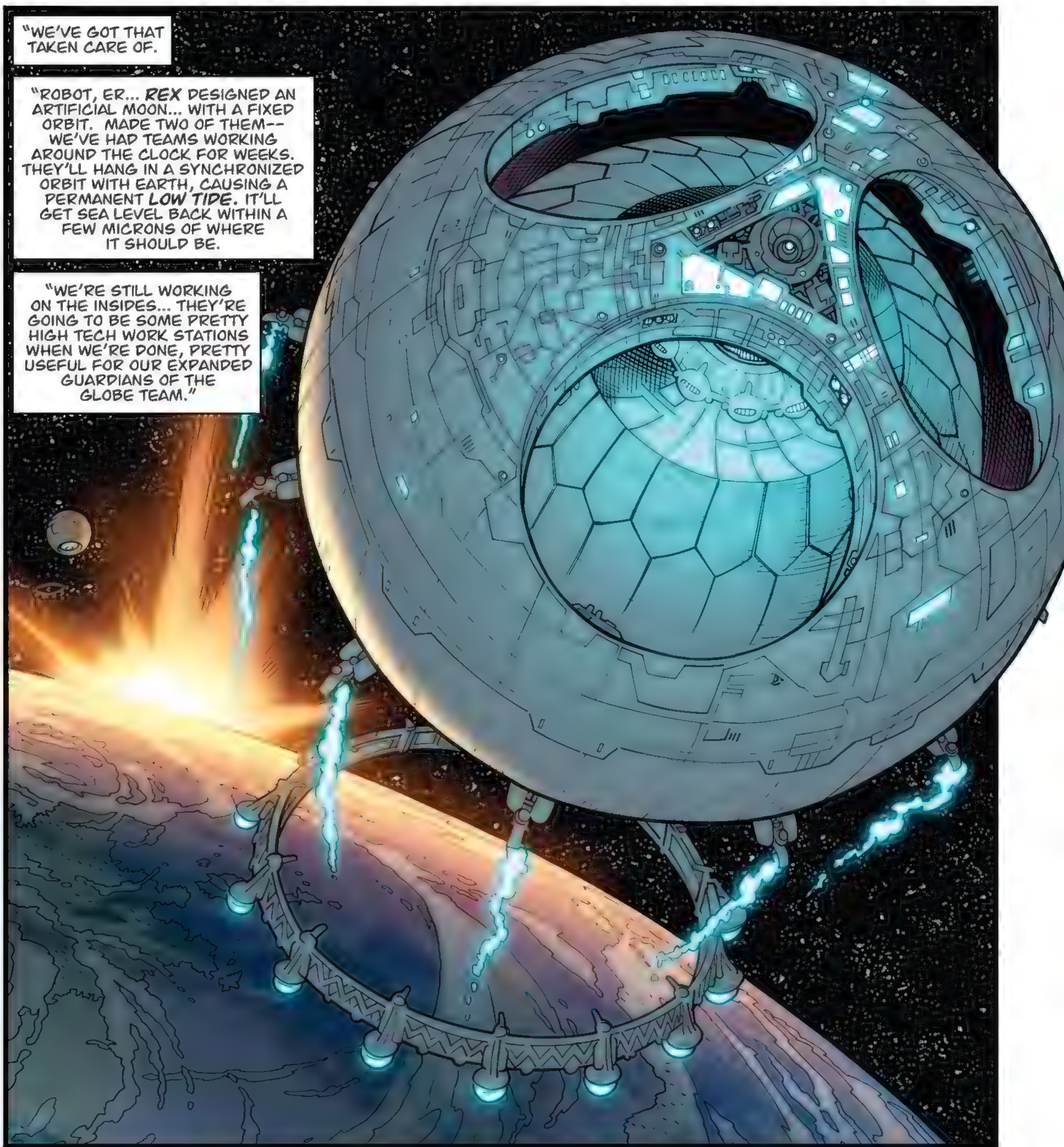
I'D HOPE, OF COURSE... THAT YOU'D LET ME HELP IN WHATEVER WAY I CAN IN THE EFFORT TO UNDO THIS. THERE HAS TO BE SOME WAY TO GET SEA LEVEL BACK TO WHERE IT SHOULD BE--TRY AND RESTORE THE CITIES...

OH, THAT...

"WE'VE GOT THAT
TAKEN CARE OF."

"ROBOT, ER... REX DESIGNED AN
ARTIFICIAL MOON... WITH A FIXED
ORBIT. MADE TWO OF THEM--
WE'VE HAD TEAMS WORKING
AROUND THE CLOCK FOR WEEKS.
THEY'LL HANG IN A SYNCHRONIZED
ORBIT WITH EARTH, CAUSING A
PERMANENT **LOW TIDE**. IT'LL
GET SEA LEVEL BACK WITHIN A
FEW MICRONS OF WHERE
IT SHOULD BE."

"WE'RE STILL WORKING
ON THE INSIDES... THEY'RE
GOING TO BE SOME PRETTY
HIGH TECH WORK STATIONS
WHEN WE'RE DONE, PRETTY
USEFUL FOR OUR EXPANDED
GUARDIANS OF THE
GLOBE TEAM."

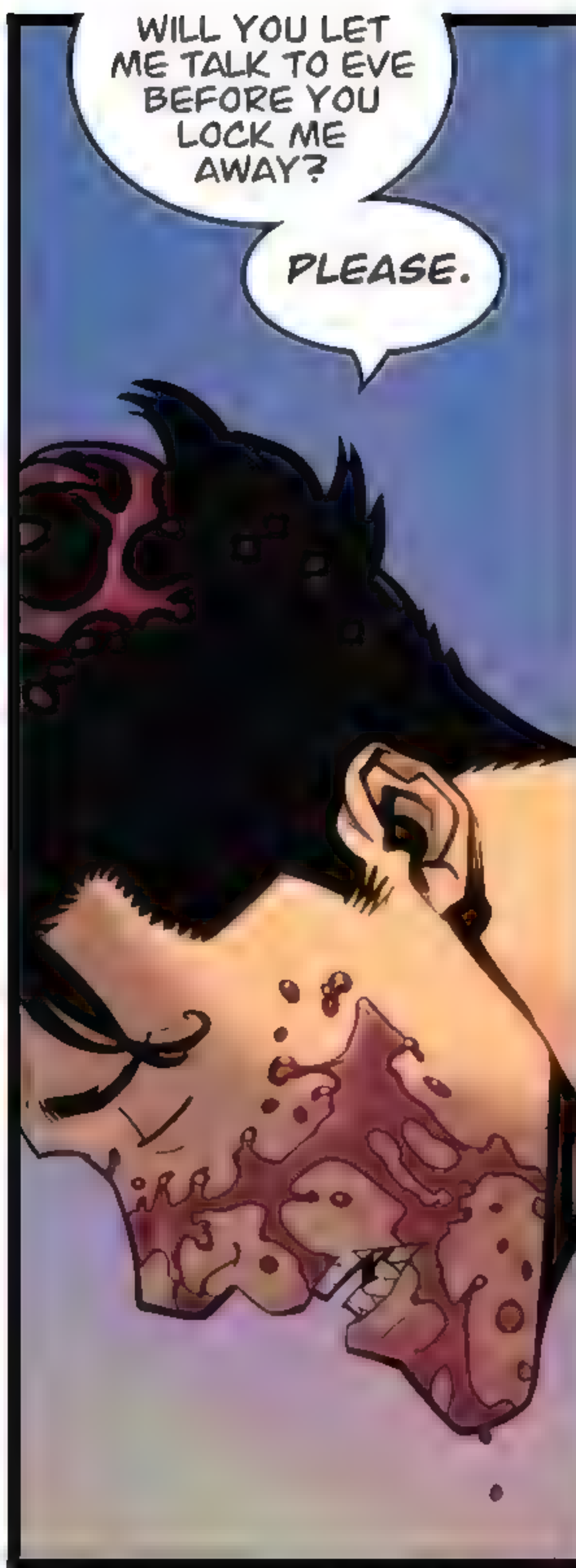


HOW
MANY
DEAD?



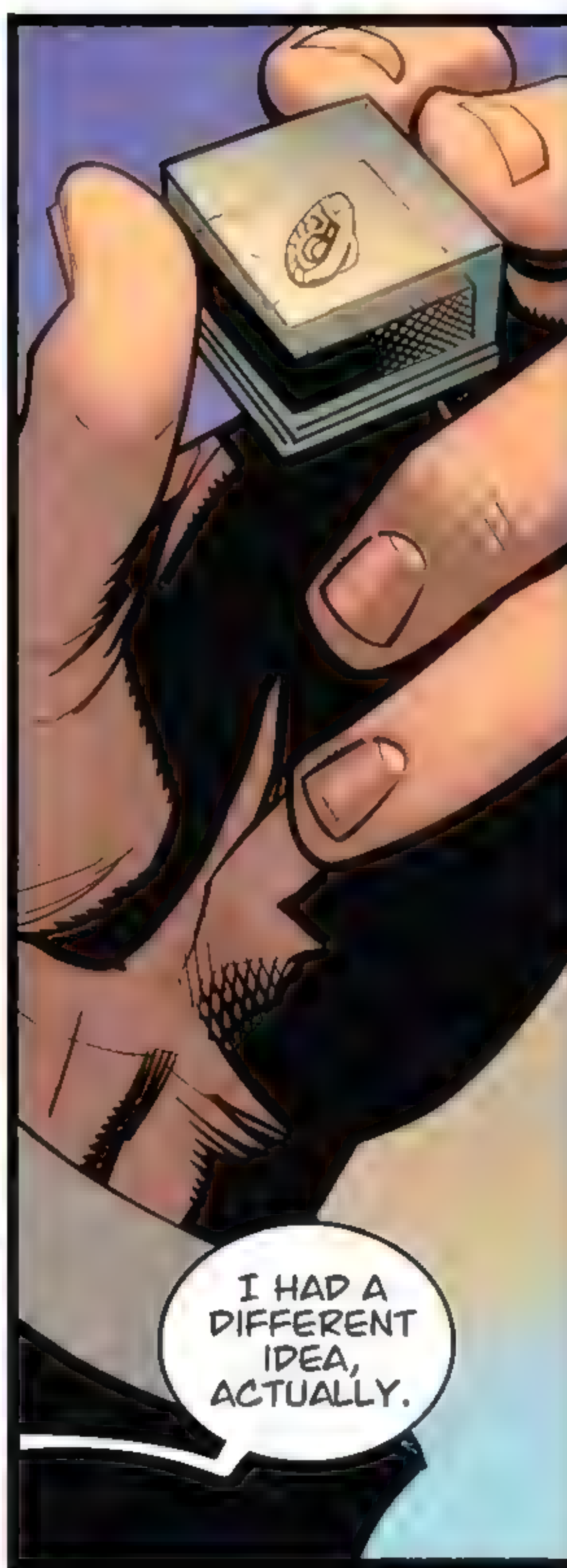
LAST COUNT I
HEARD WAS OVER
**EIGHT HUNDRED
THOUSAND...**
SHOULD CROSS A
MILLION BEFORE
IT'S ALL
DONE...

...COULD
HAVE BEEN
A LOT
WORSE.



WILL YOU LET
ME TALK TO EVE
BEFORE YOU
LOCK ME
AWAY?

PLEASE.



I HAD A
DIFFERENT
IDEA,
ACTUALLY.



WHAT'S
THAT?

EAR PIECE,
JUST LIKE YOU
USED TO WEAR
WHEN YOU
WORKED FOR
ME.



I HEAR YOU, YOU
HEAR ME--YOU
DO WHAT I SAY.
LIKE THE OLD
DAYS...

UNLESS
YOU'D
RATHER GO
TO PRISON?

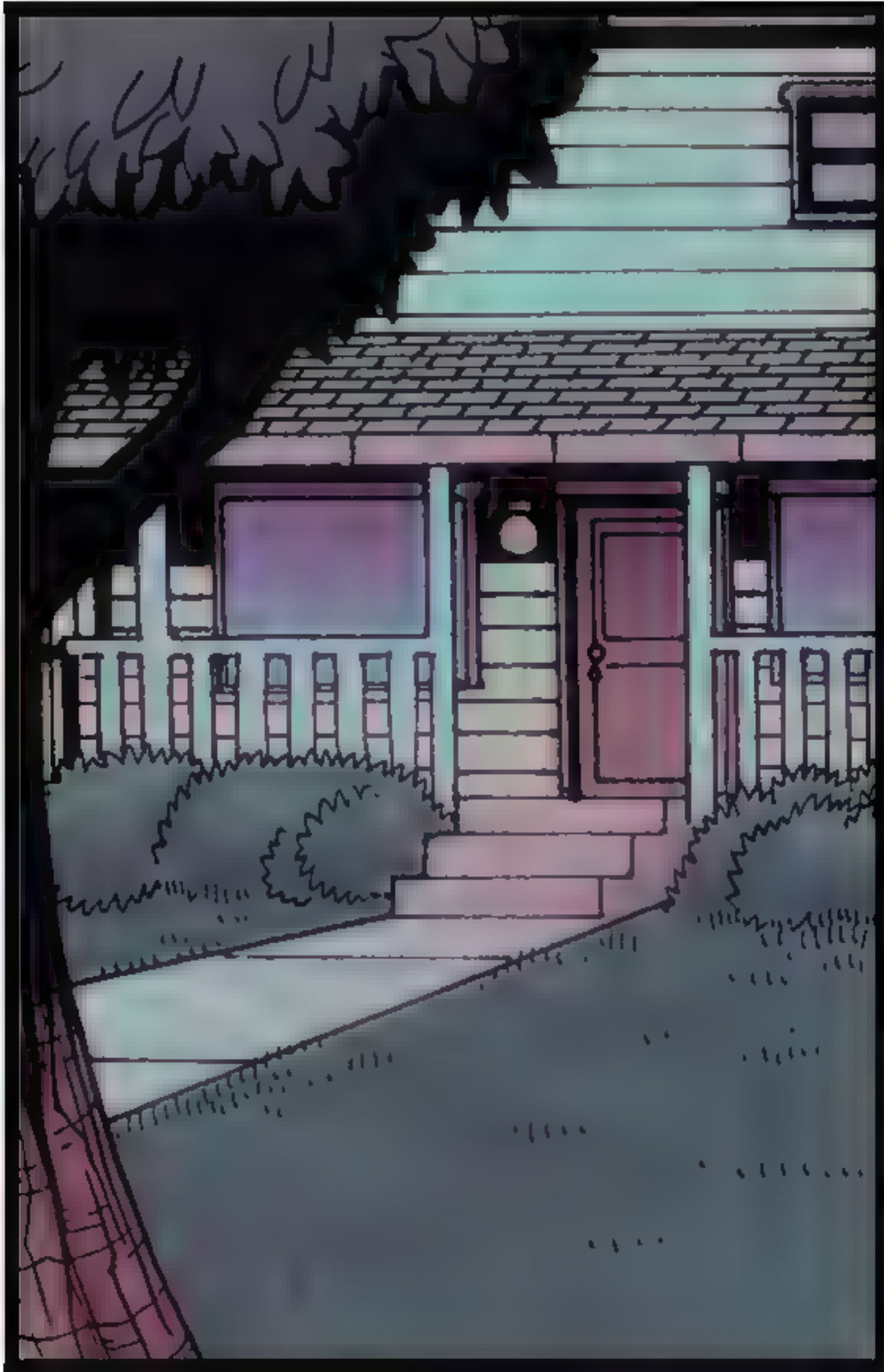


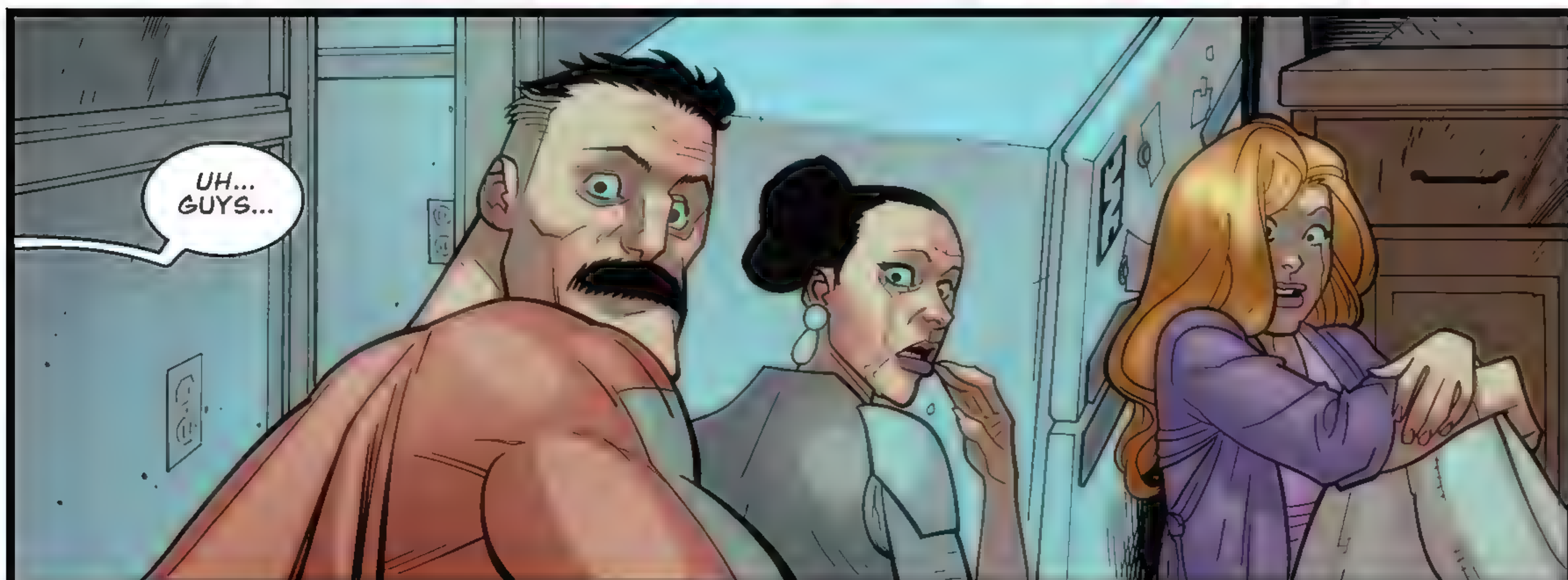
YOU'D HAVE
ME WORK FOR
YOU AGAIN?
AFTER ALL
THIS?

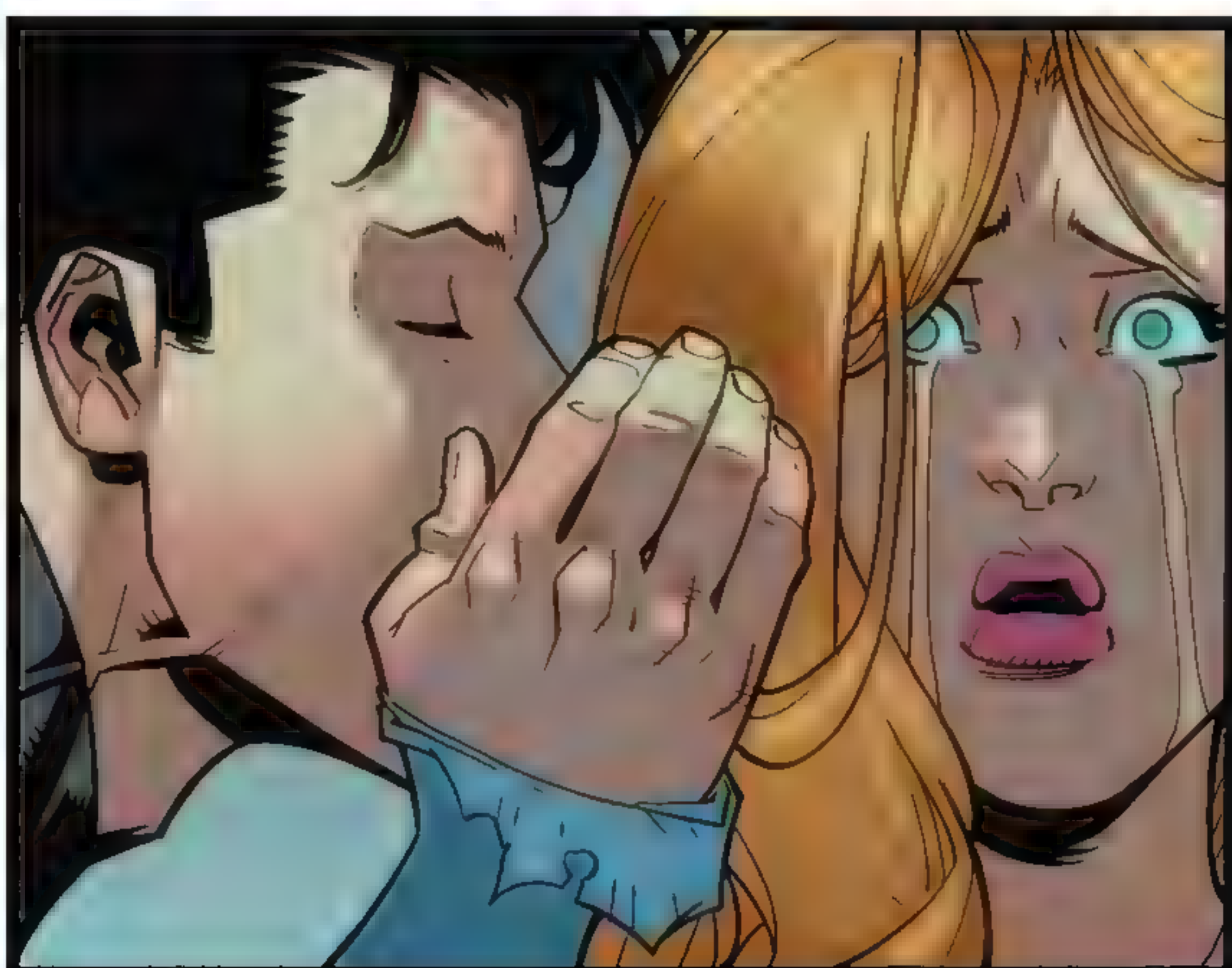


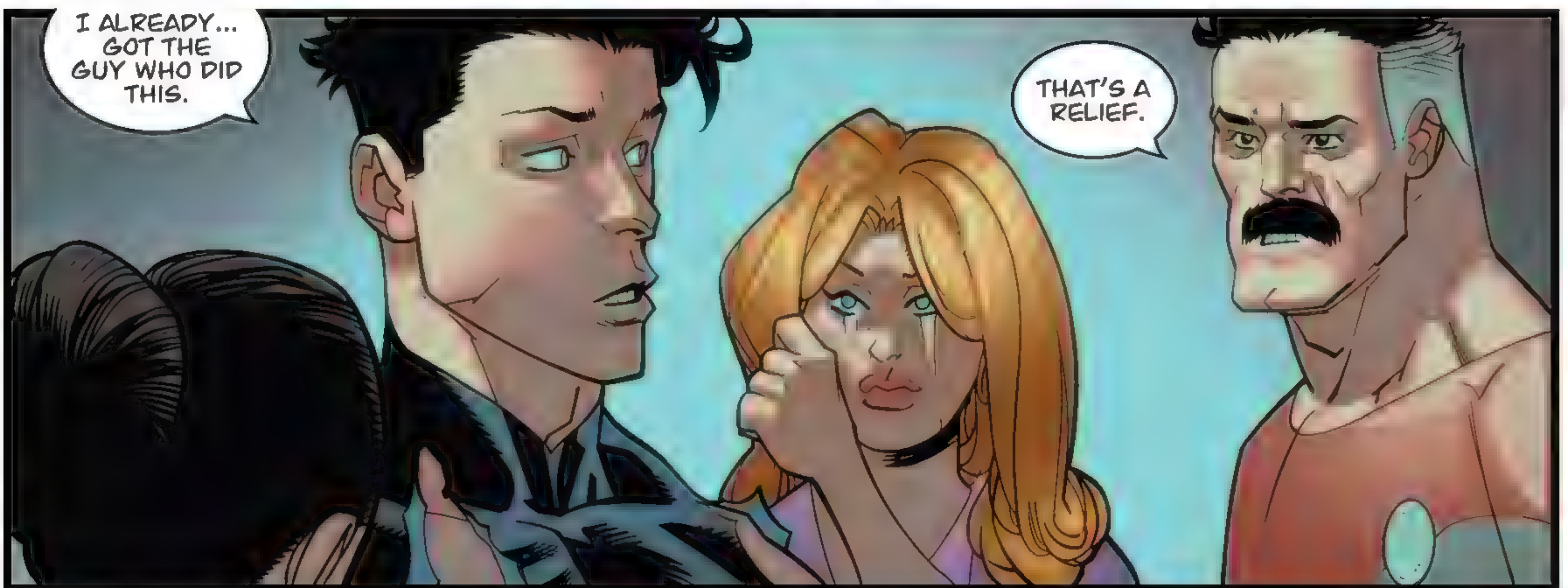
WHY
NOT?

I'VE
WORKED
WITH
VILLAINS
BEFORE.





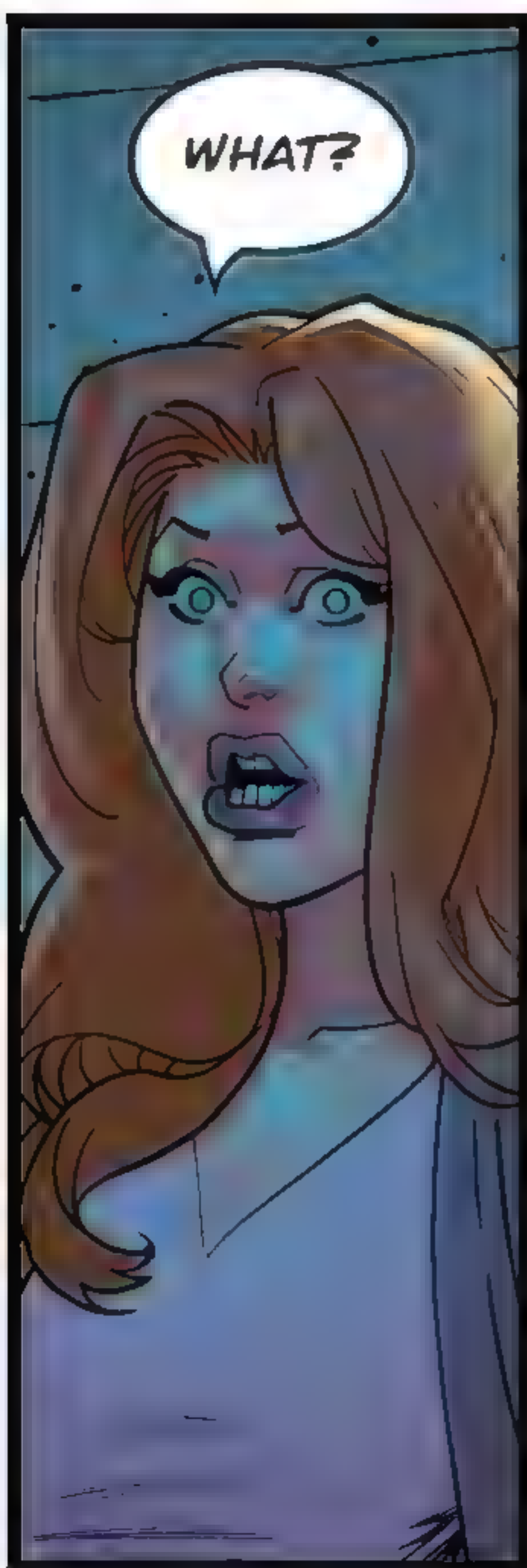






CECIL
BLAMES THIS
ON YOU, RIGHT?
WILL HE SEND
SOMEONE AFTER
YOU?

DON'T
THINK SO.
NOT NOW THAT
I'M WORKING
FOR HIM
AGAIN...

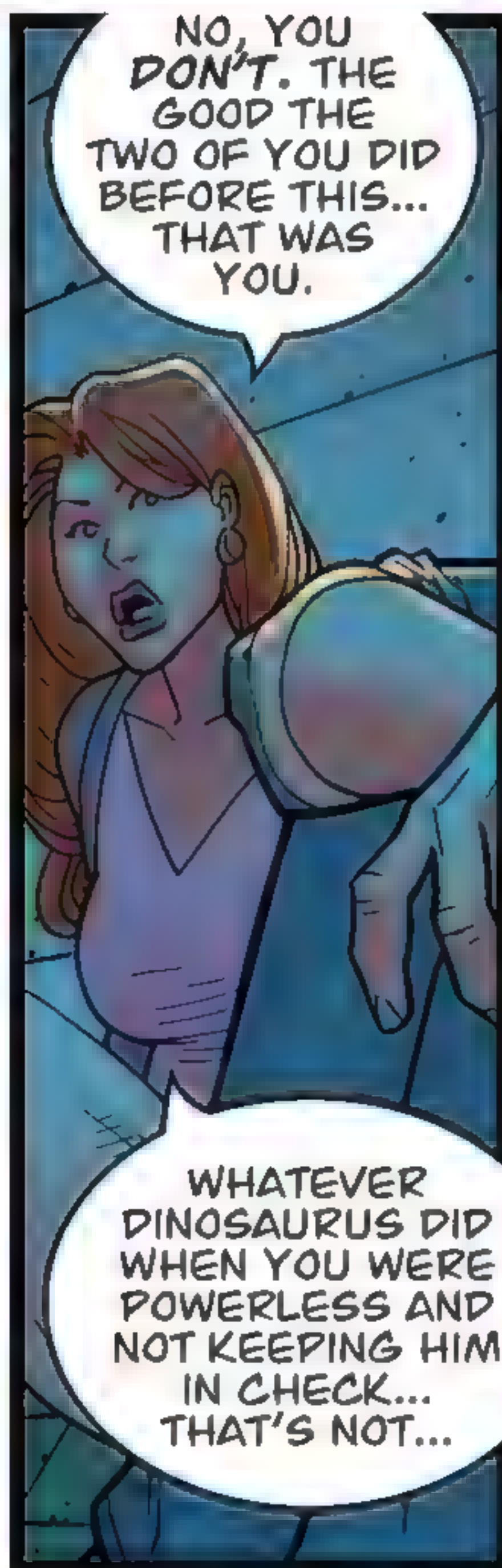


WHAT?

I KNOW, I KNOW... BUT
I SCREWED UP AND IT
HURT A LOT OF PEOPLE.
THOSE DEATHS
DINOSAURUS CAUSED...
THAT'S ON
ME, TOO.

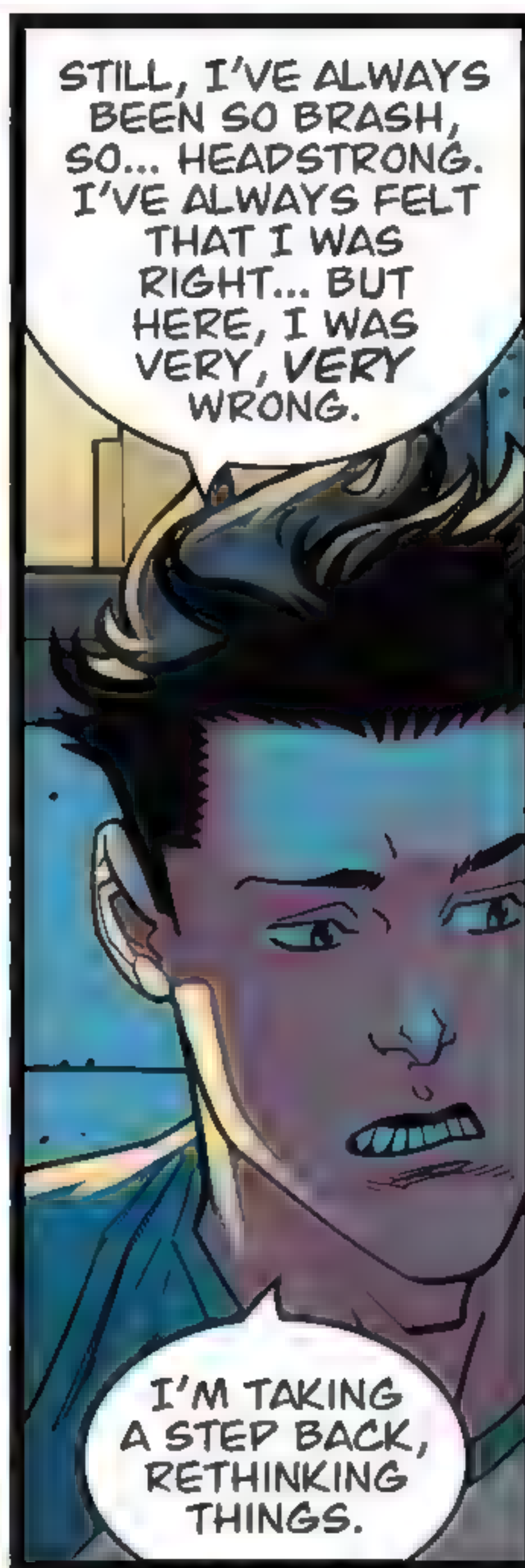


I HAVE
TO CARRY
THAT...



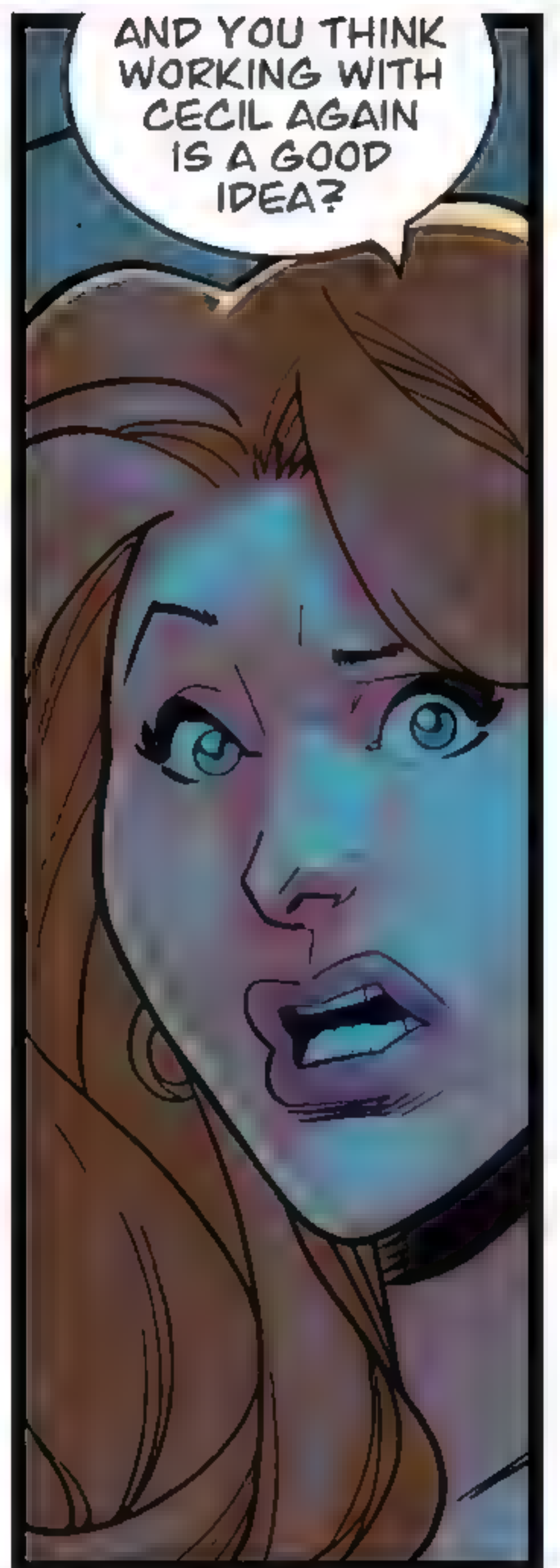
NO, YOU
DON'T. THE
GOOD THE
TWO OF YOU DID
BEFORE THIS...
THAT WAS
YOU.

WHATEVER
DINOSAURUS DID
WHEN YOU WERE
POWERLESS AND
NOT KEEPING HIM
IN CHECK...
THAT'S NOT...



STILL, I'VE ALWAYS
BEEN SO BRASH,
SO... HEADSTRONG.
I'VE ALWAYS FELT
THAT I WAS
RIGHT... BUT
HERE, I WAS
VERY, VERY
WRONG.

I'M TAKING
A STEP BACK,
RETHINKING
THINGS.



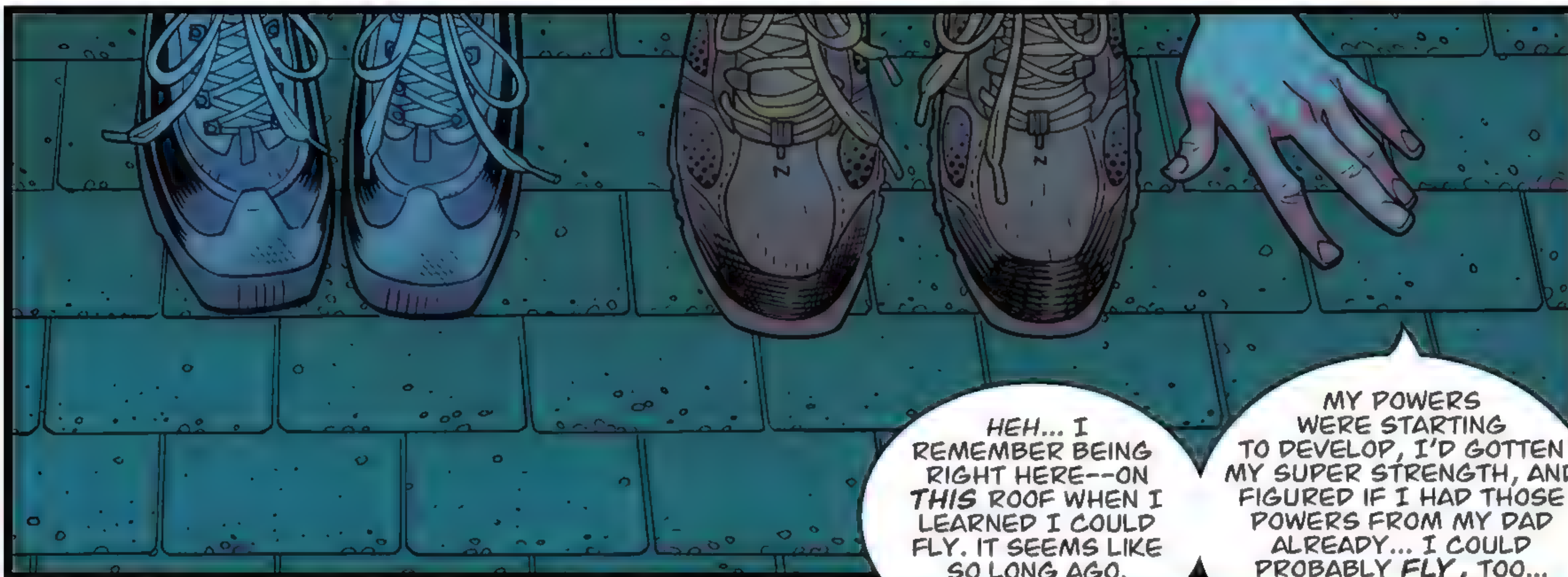
AND YOU THINK
WORKING WITH
CECIL AGAIN
IS A GOOD
IDEA?



IT'S THE ONLY IDEA
THAT'S GOING TO
KEEP ME OUT OF
PRISON. CECIL
PRETTY MUCH SAID
THOSE WERE
THE TERMS.

I KNOW I
CAN DO A LOT
MORE GOOD
OUT HERE THAN
IN THERE. I'VE
GOT A LOT
TO ATONE
FOR.

THINGS
ARE... GOING
TO HAVE TO BE
DIFFERENT
NOW.



HEH... I
REMEMBER BEING
RIGHT HERE--ON
THIS ROOF WHEN I
LEARNED I COULD
FLY. IT SEEMS LIKE
SO LONG AGO.

MY POWERS
WERE STARTING
TO DEVELOP, I'D GOTTEN
MY SUPER STRENGTH, AND
FIGURED IF I HAD THOSE
POWERS FROM MY DAD
ALREADY... I COULD
PROBABLY FLY, TOO...



"SO I JUST
JUMPED OFF
THE ROOF.

"LUCKY FOR ME...
IT WORKED. I
COULD FLY."



THAT'S KIND OF
HOW I'VE BEEN
DOING THINGS EVER
SINCE... MAKING AN
ASSUMPTION,
BELIEVING THAT I'M
RIGHT... AND
JUST GOING
FOR IT.

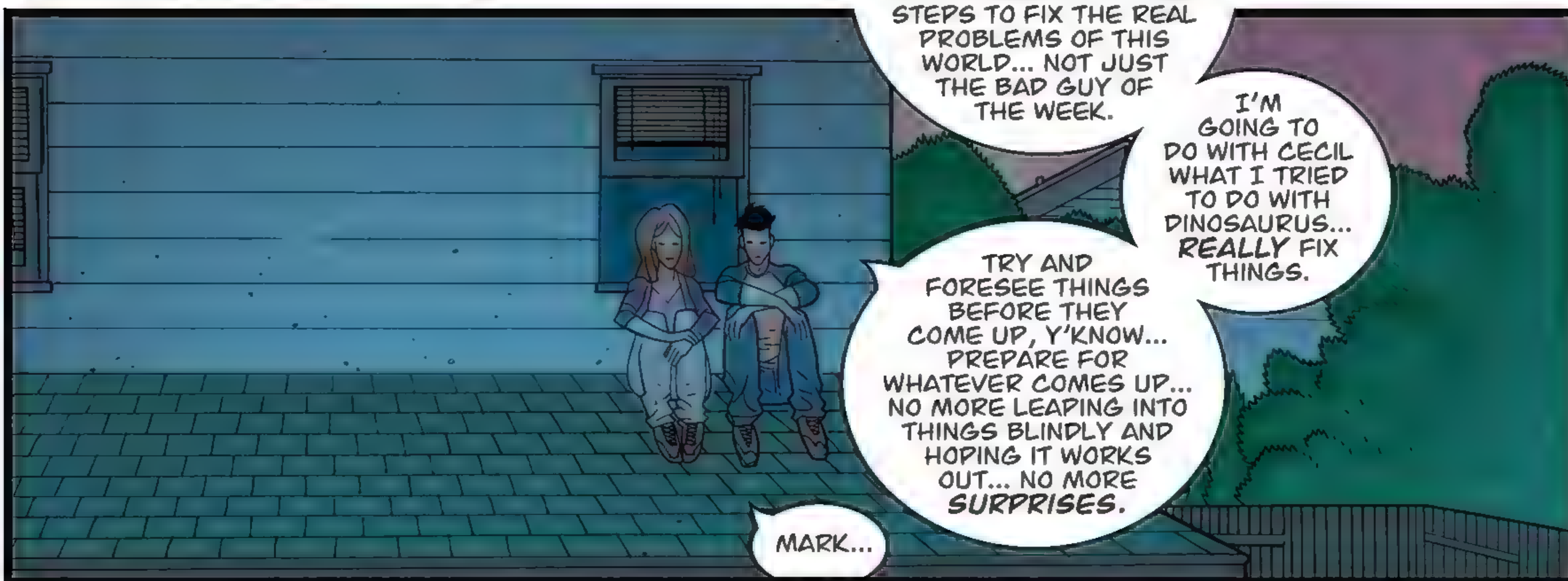
ALL THE
TIMES IT'S
WORKED OUT...
THAT WAS JUST
LUCK. I CAN'T
DO THAT
ANYMORE.

I'M AN
ADULT NOW.
I HAVE TO BE...
SMARTER
ABOUT
THINGS.

I'M NOT
TAKING ANY
MORE CHANCES...
NO MORE RISKS.
I'M GOING TO SET
GOALS, WORK TOWARD
THEM. I'M GOING TO
PLAN THINGS OUT... TAKE
STEPS TO FIX THE REAL
PROBLEMS OF THIS
WORLD... NOT JUST
THE BAD GUY OF
THE WEEK.

I'M
GOING TO
DO WITH CECIL
WHAT I TRIED
TO DO WITH
DINOSAURUS...
REALLY FIX
THINGS.

TRY AND
FORESEE THINGS
BEFORE THEY
COME UP, Y'KNOW...
PREPARE FOR
WHATEVER COMES UP...
NO MORE LEAPING INTO
THINGS BLINDLY AND
HOPING IT WORKS
OUT... NO MORE
SURPRISES.



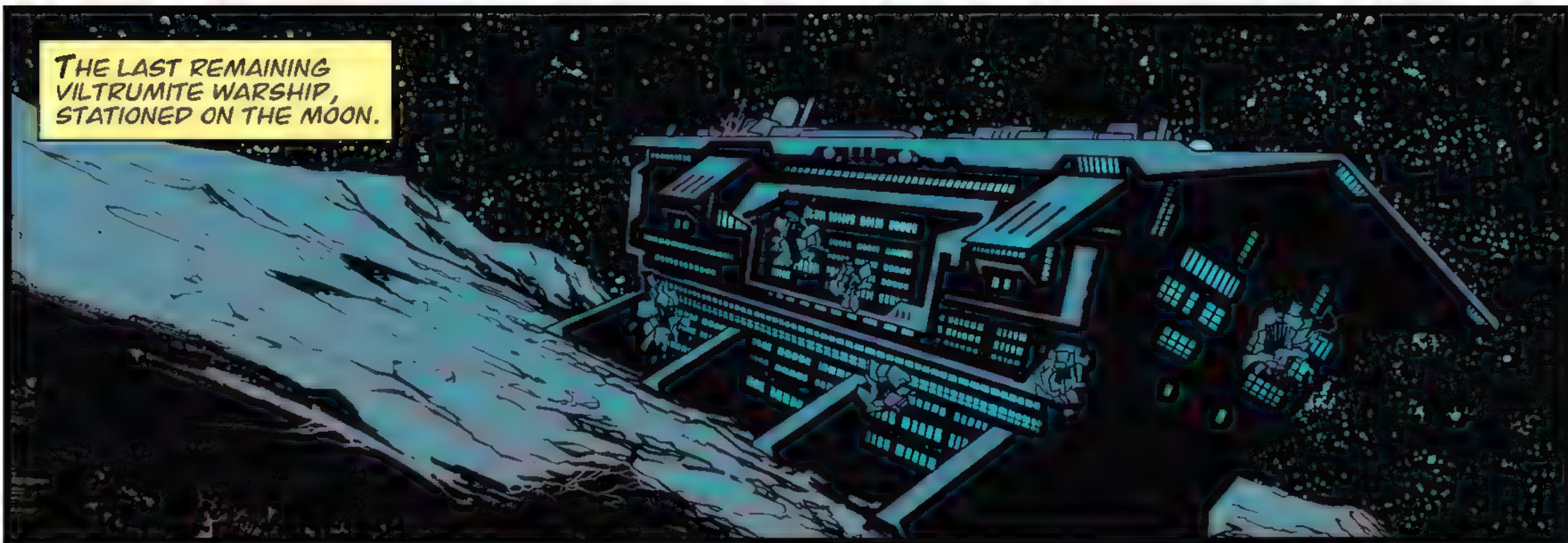
MARK...



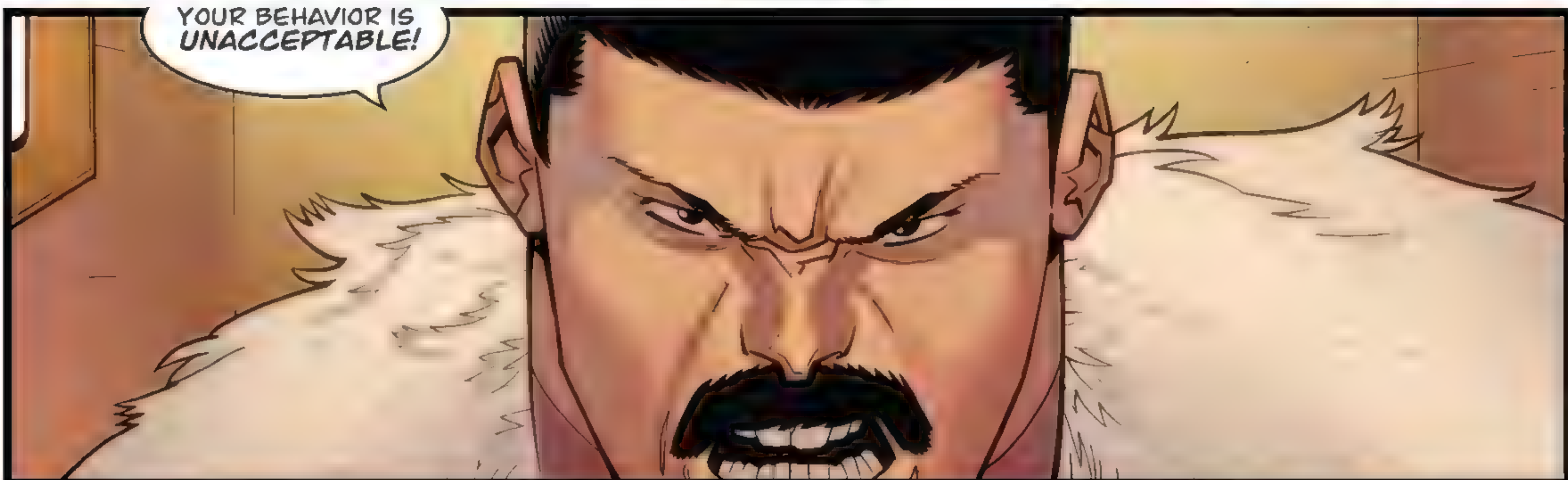


CHAPTER FIVE

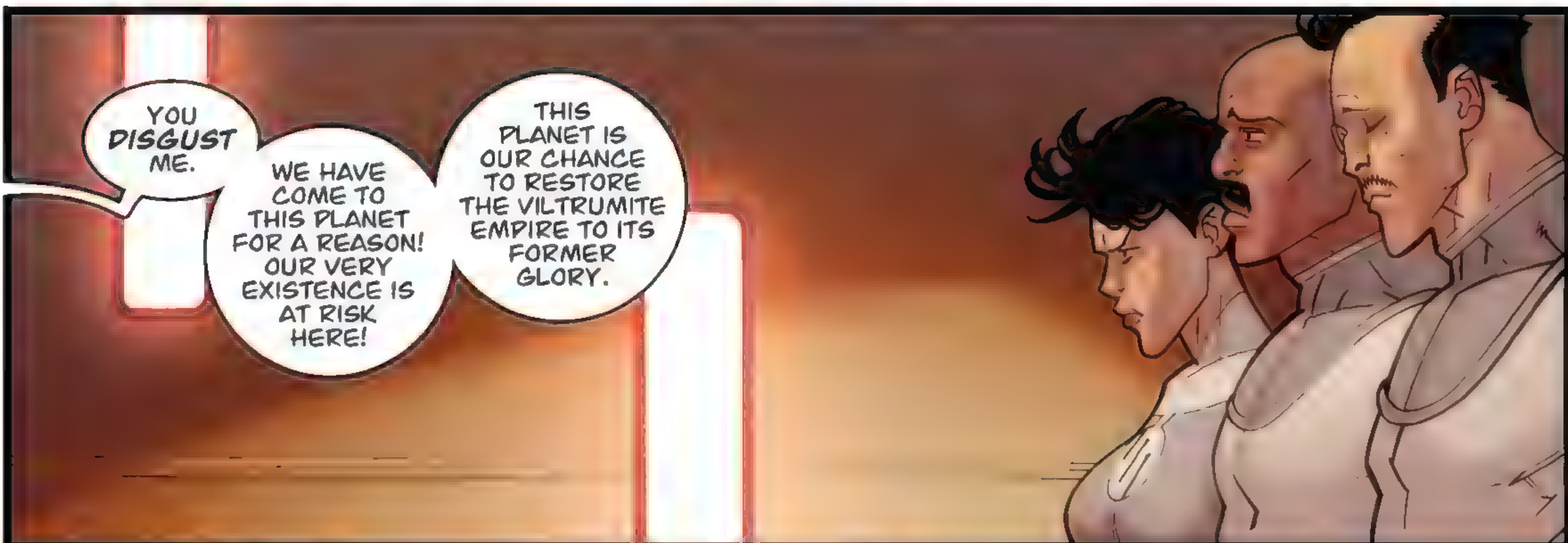




THE LAST REMAINING
VILTRUMITE WARSHIP,
STATIONED ON THE MOON.



YOUR BEHAVIOR IS
UNACCEPTABLE!



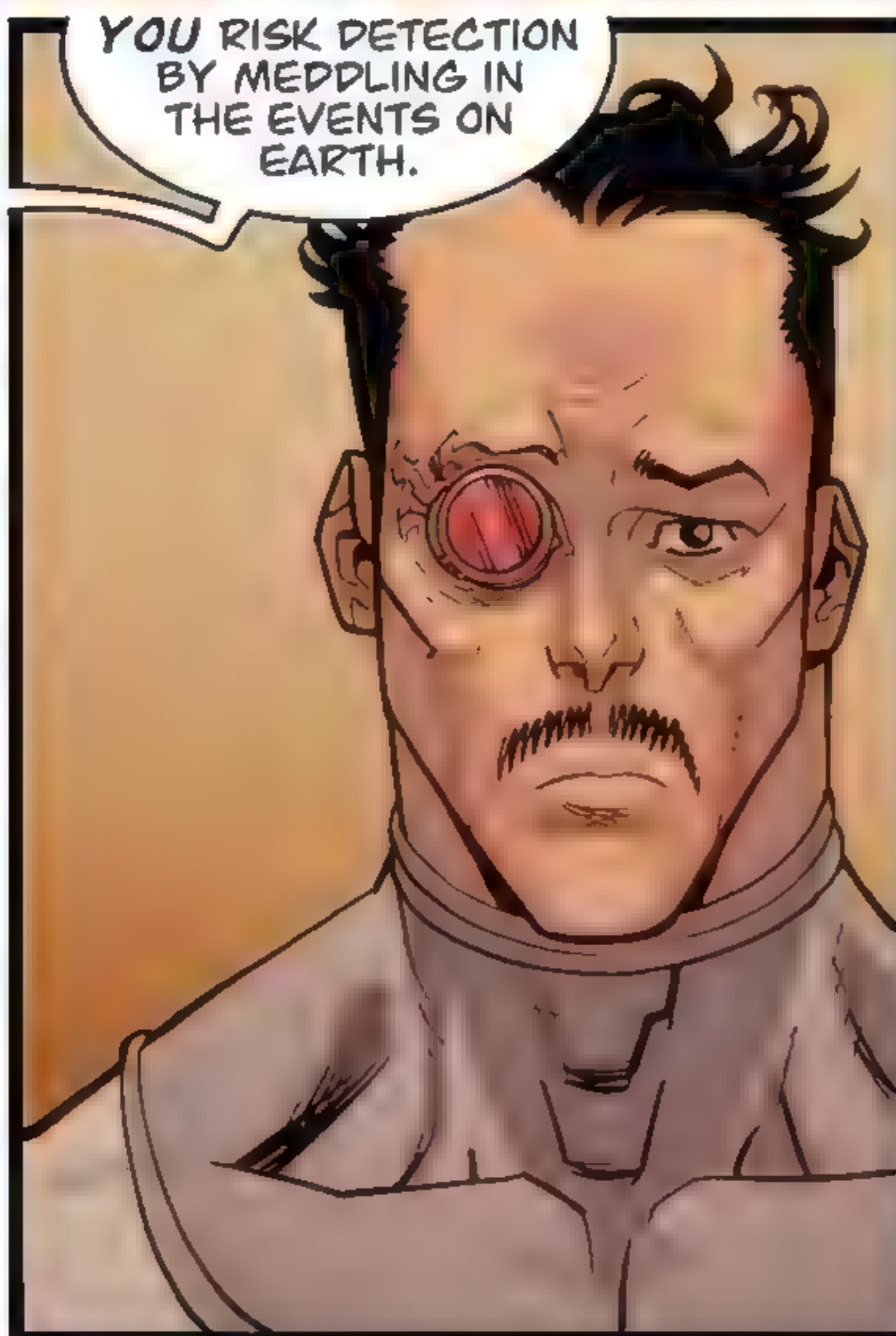
YOU
DISGUST
ME.

WE HAVE
COME TO
THIS PLANET
FOR A REASON!
OUR VERY
EXISTENCE IS
AT RISK
HERE!

THIS
PLANET IS
OUR CHANCE
TO RESTORE
THE VILTRUMITE
EMPIRE TO ITS
FORMER
GLORY.



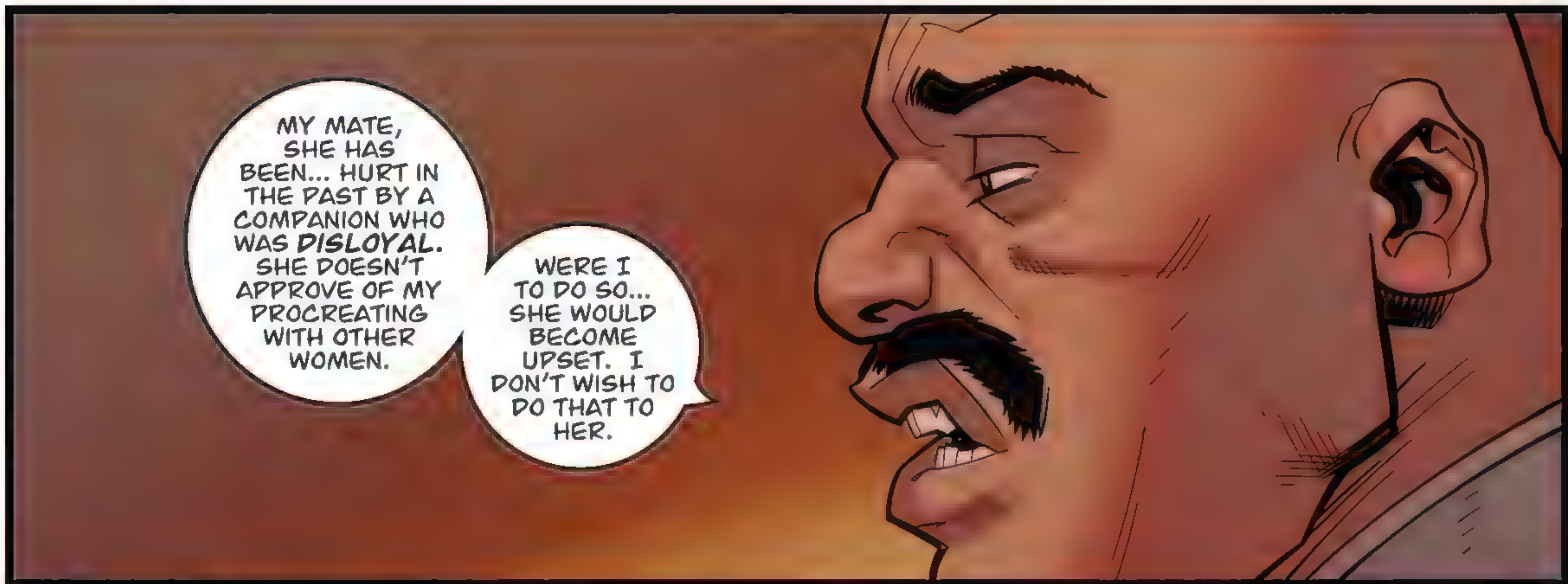
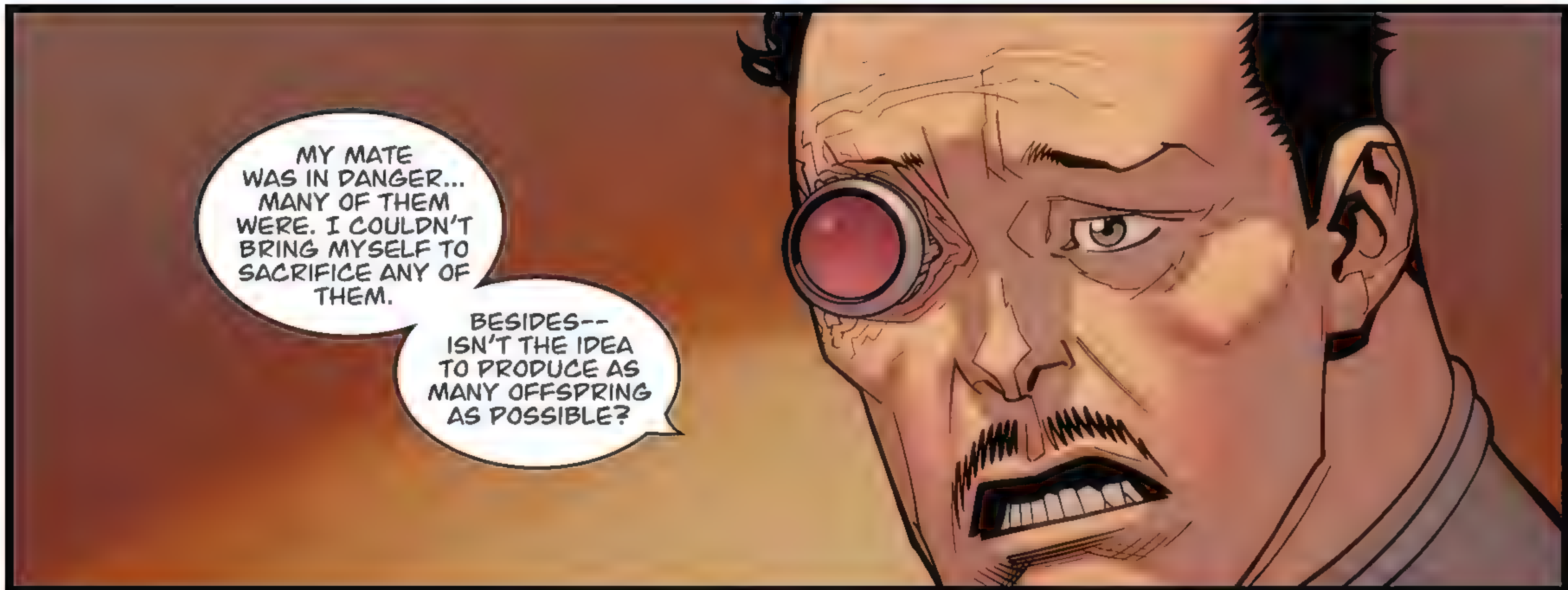
AND YET, YOU
REFUSE TO
PROCREATE.



YOU RISK DETECTION
BY MEDDLING IN
THE EVENTS ON
EARTH.



YOU REFUSE TO
PROCREATE WITH
MORE THAN ONE
HUMAN!





IS THERE
NO END TO
THIS **POISON**
THAT IS INFECTING
US ALL?! THIS...
AFFECTION FOR
THESE **LESSER**
CREATURES!

IT'S
DISGUSTING!

WHAT IS IT
ABOUT THEM
THAT YOU FIND
APPEALING?!
THEY ARE
CATTLE... GENETIC
MATERIAL TO USE
FOR OUR ULTIMATE
GOAL--TO RECLAIM
OUR FORMER
GLORY!

**NOTHING
MORE!**

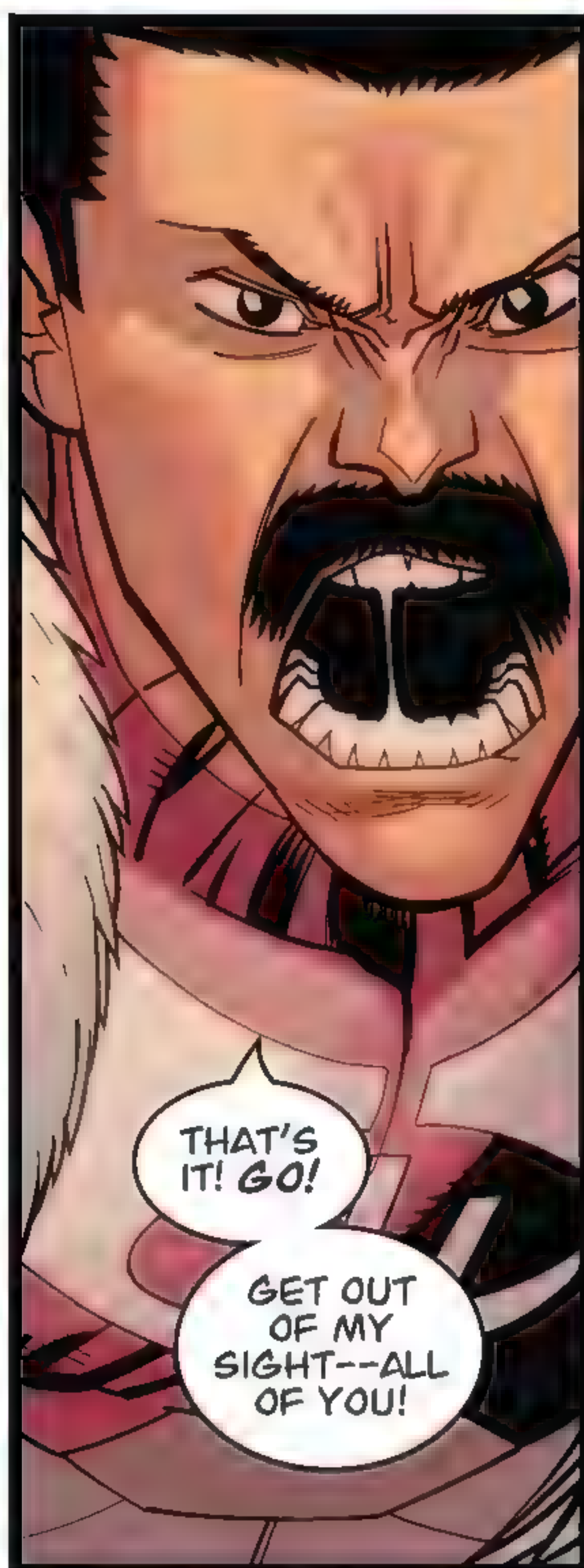


I
AGREE.

IT'S HARD
TO EXPLAIN...
YOU'VE
REMAINED HERE,
YOU HAVEN'T
EXPOSED
YOURSELF TO IT.
IT'S... AMAZING,
LIKE... NOTHING
I'VE EVER FELT
BEFORE.

TO HAVE
SOMEONE CARE
FOR YOU... TO
THINK ABOUT YOU...
TO BE ALLOWED TO
THINK ABOUT THEM...
THE BOND THAT
FORMS, IT'S...
IT'S...

AMAZING.
IT CHANGES
EVERYTHING,
THRAGG. IT
CHANGES...
US.



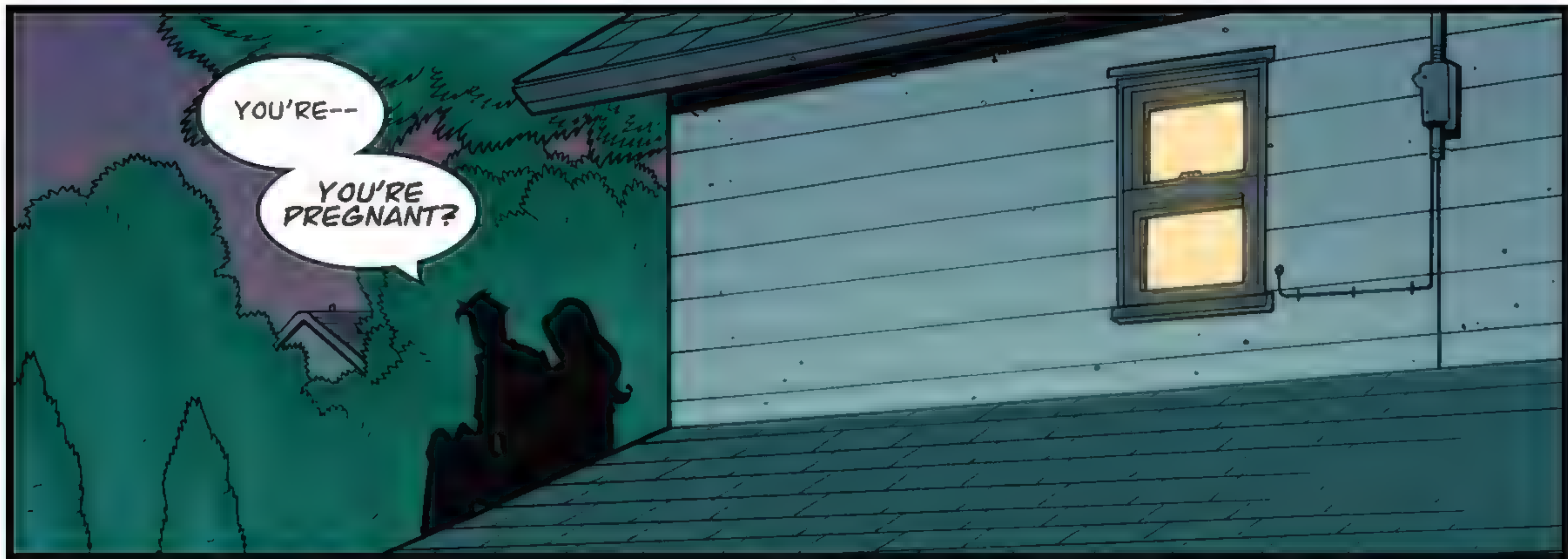
THAT'S
IT! GO!

GET OUT
OF MY
SIGHT--ALL
OF YOU!



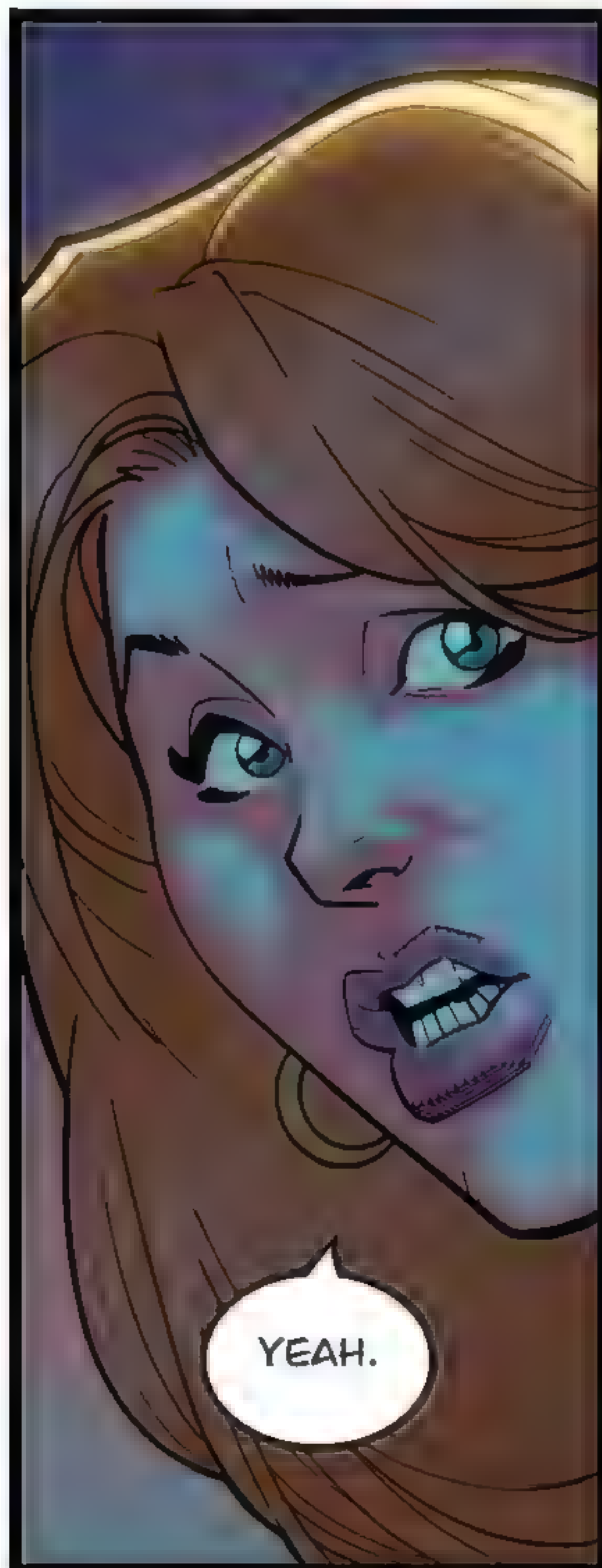
I'LL
FIGURE OUT
WHAT TO DO
WITH YOU
LATER!





YOU'RE--

YOU'RE
PREGNANT?



YEAH.



I'LL... DO
WHATEVER
YOU WANT
TO DO.

WHATEVER
YOU DECIDE...
I'LL SUPPORT
YOU.



I CAN'T GO
THROUGH
THAT
AGAIN.

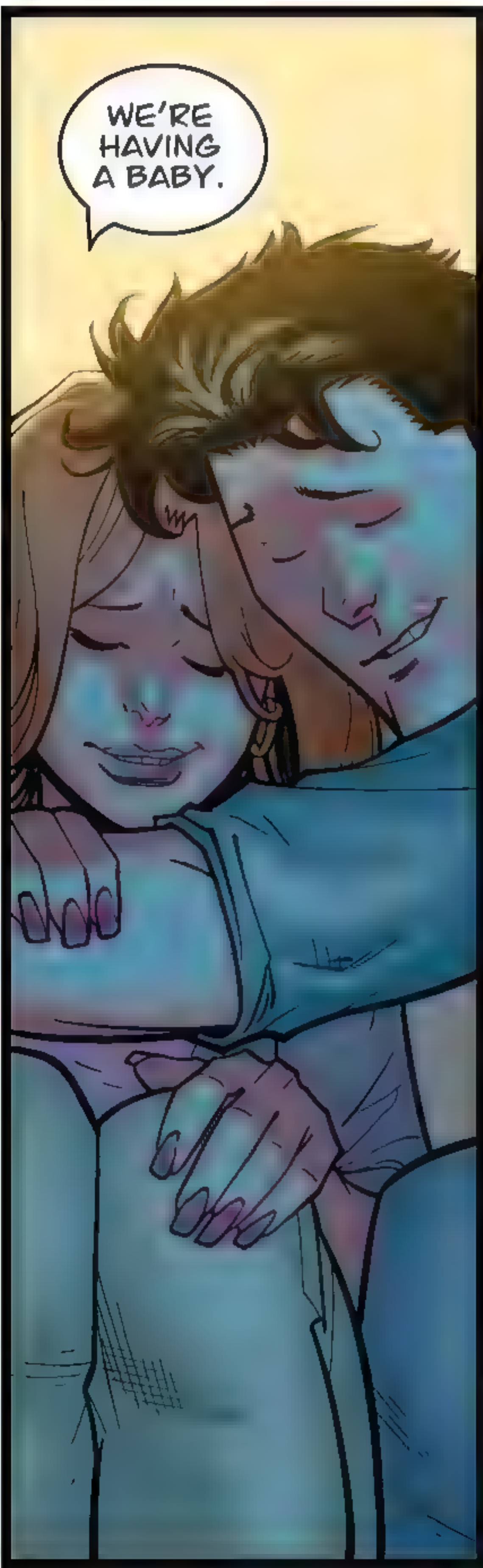
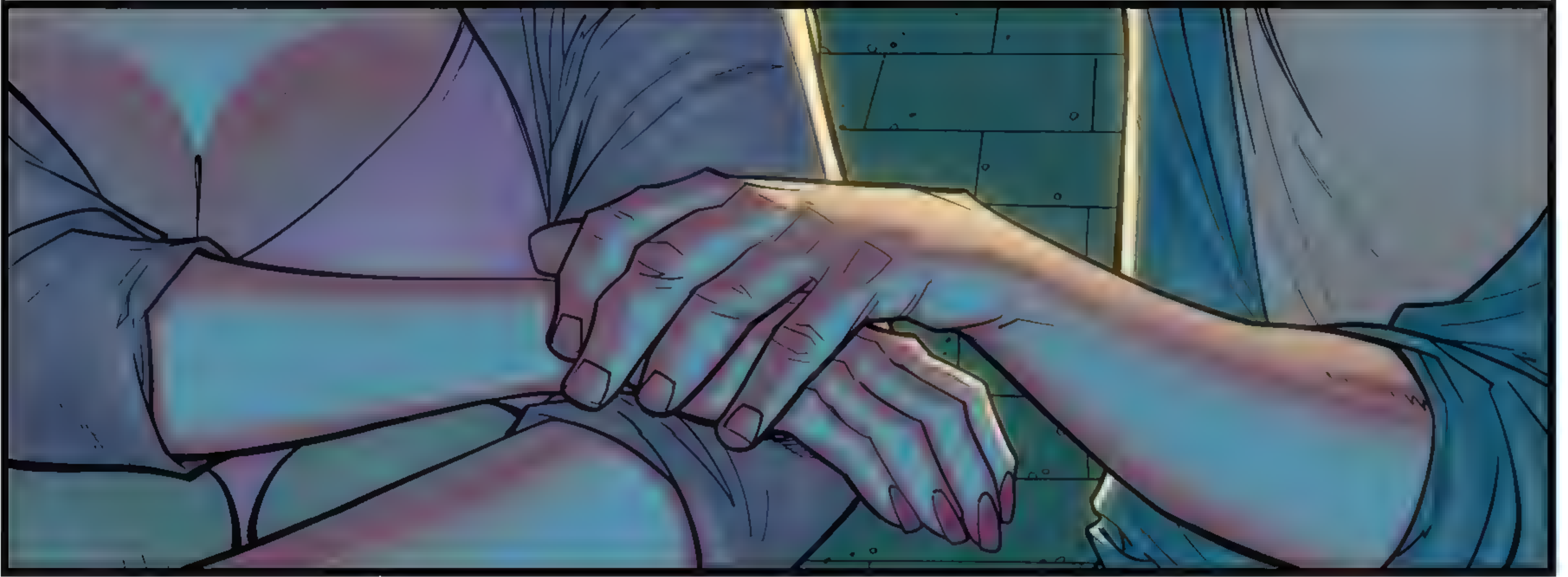
I WON'T.



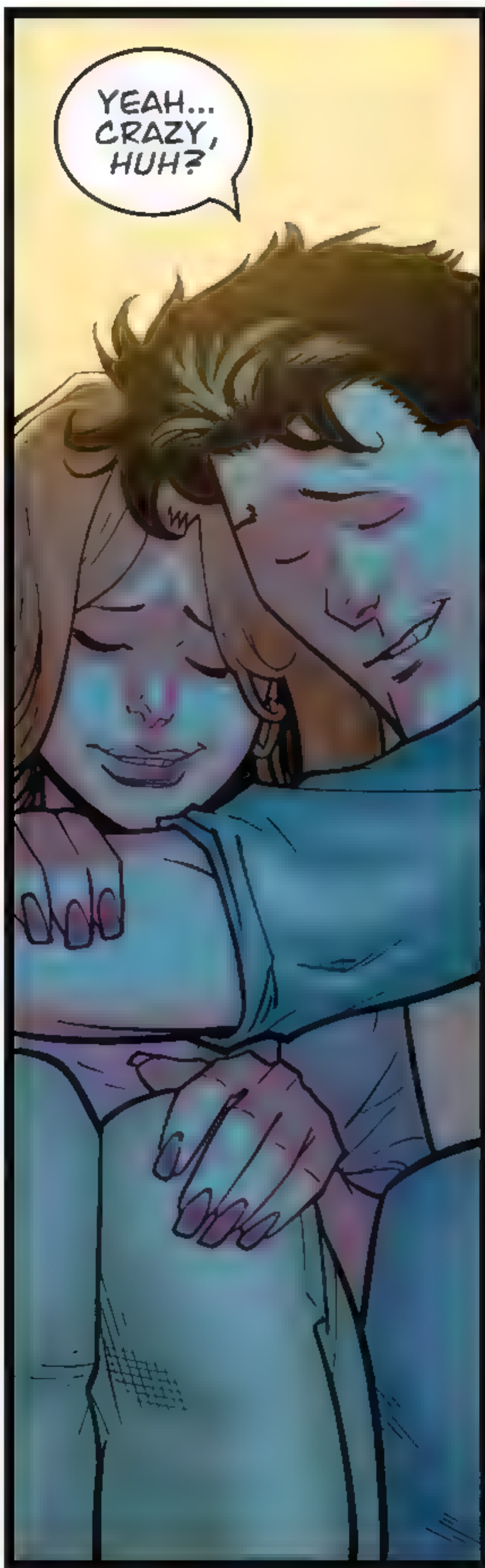
OKAY
THEN...



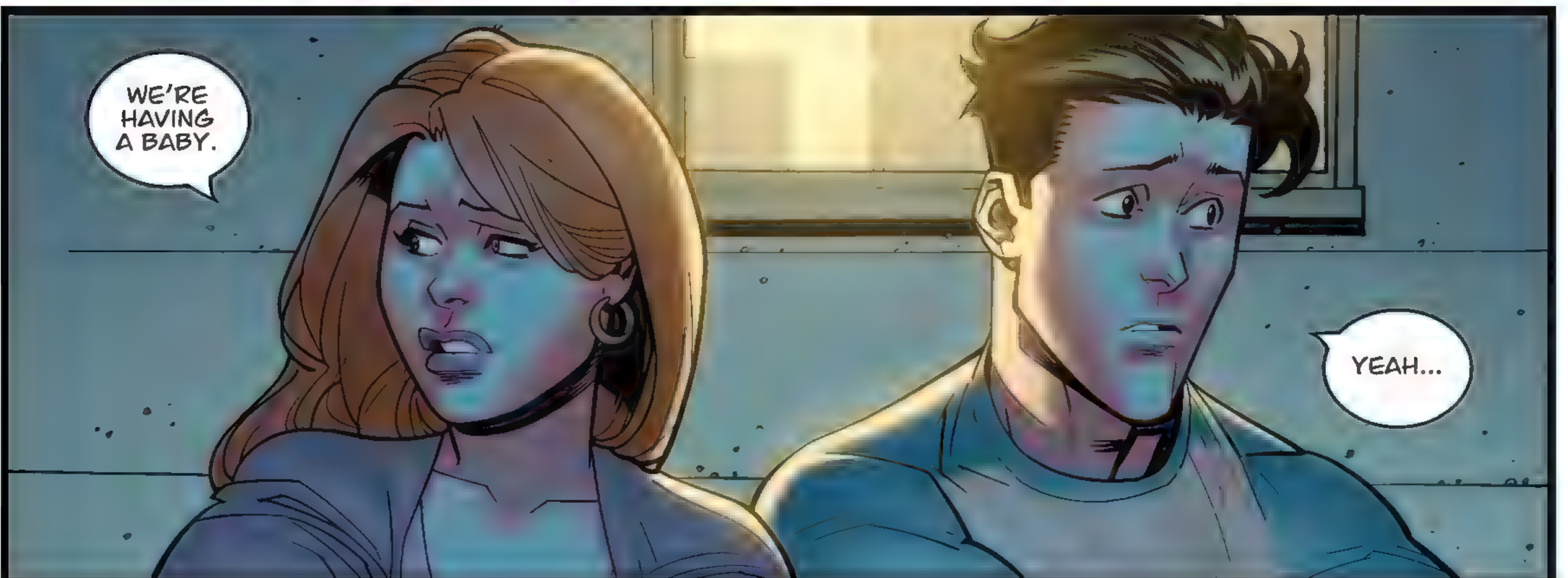
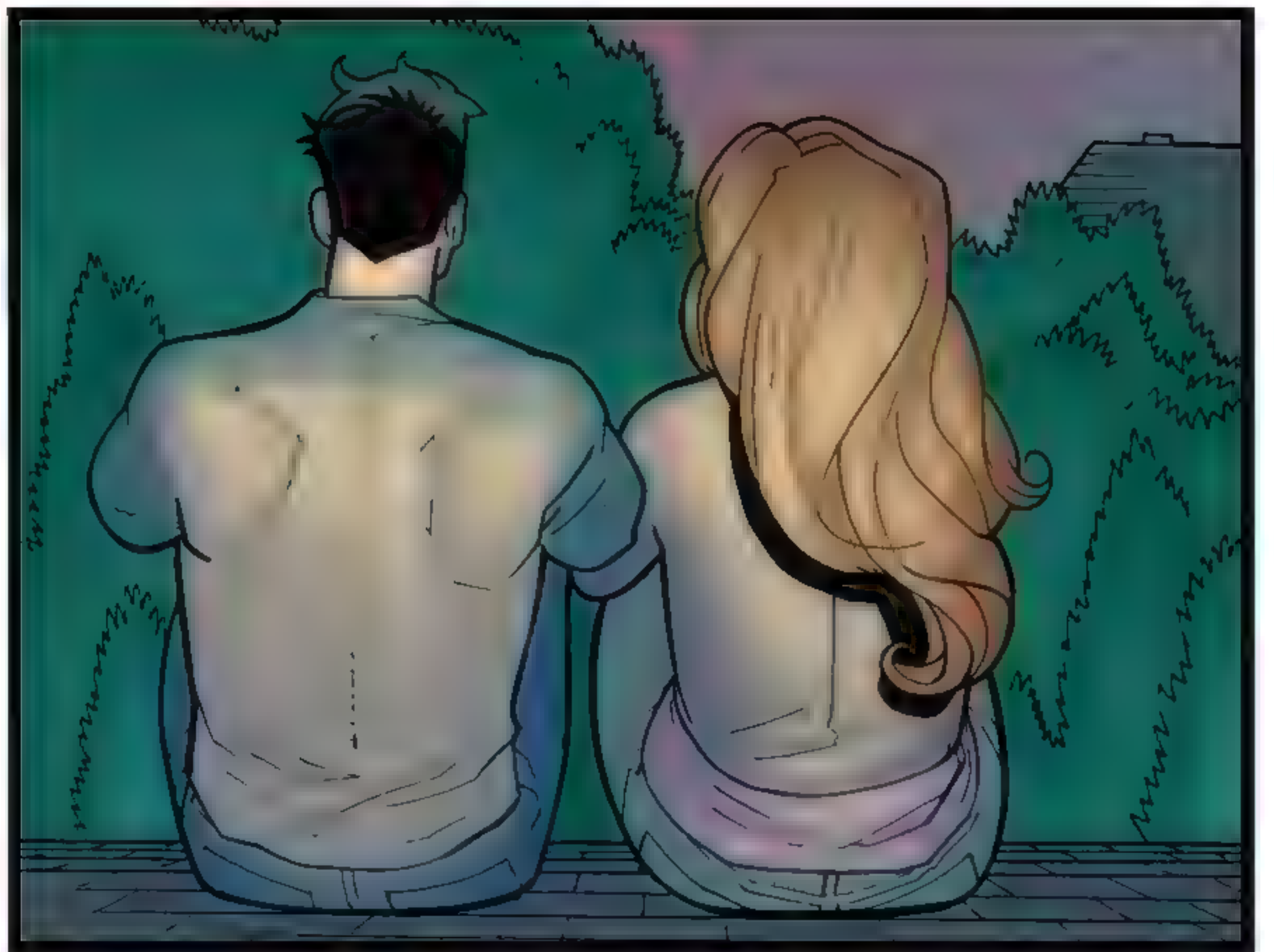
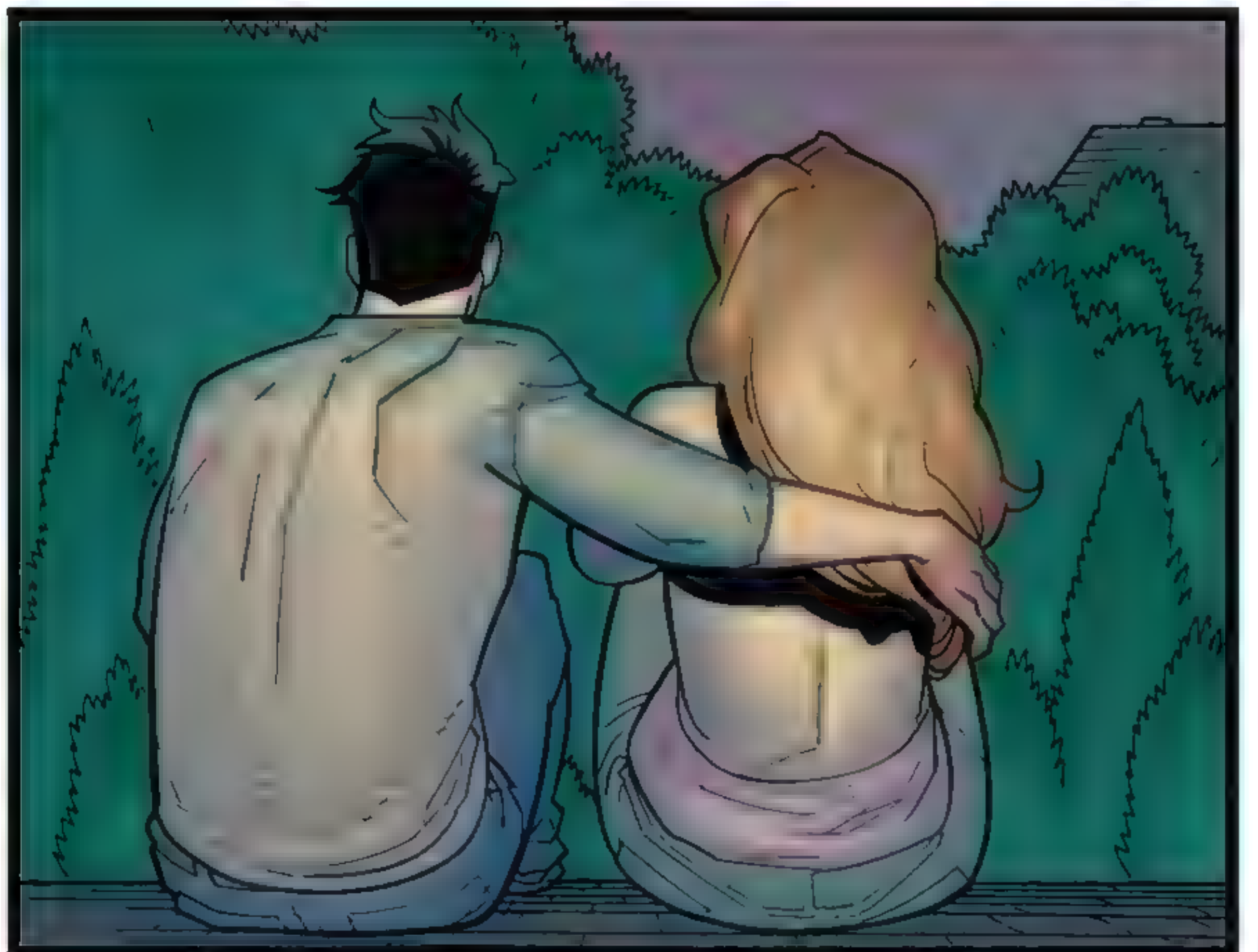
WE'RE
HAVING
A BABY.



WE'RE
HAVING
A BABY.

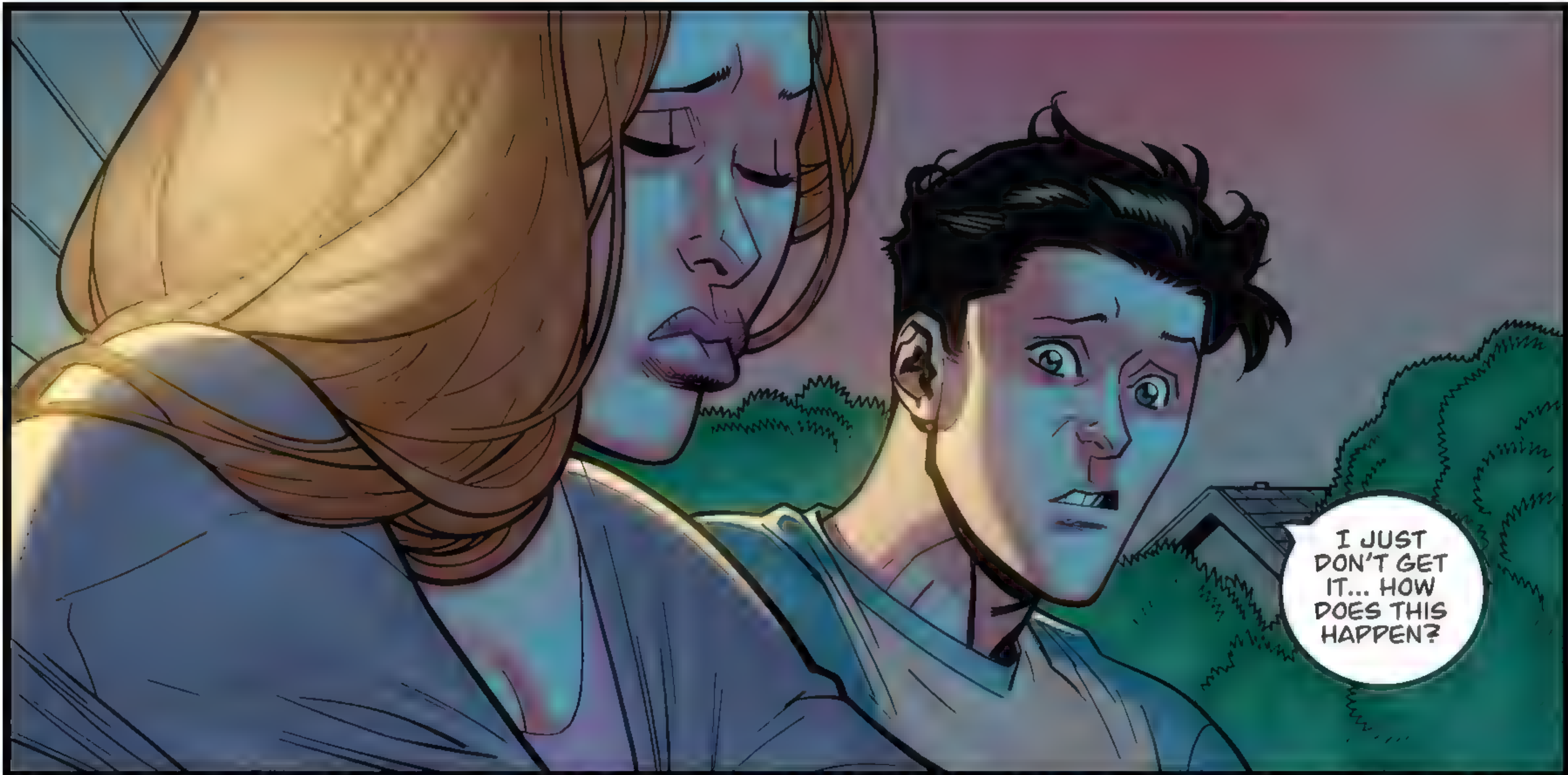


YEAH...
CRAZY,
HUH?



WE'RE
HAVING
A BABY.

YEAH...



I JUST DON'T GET IT... HOW DOES THIS HAPPEN?

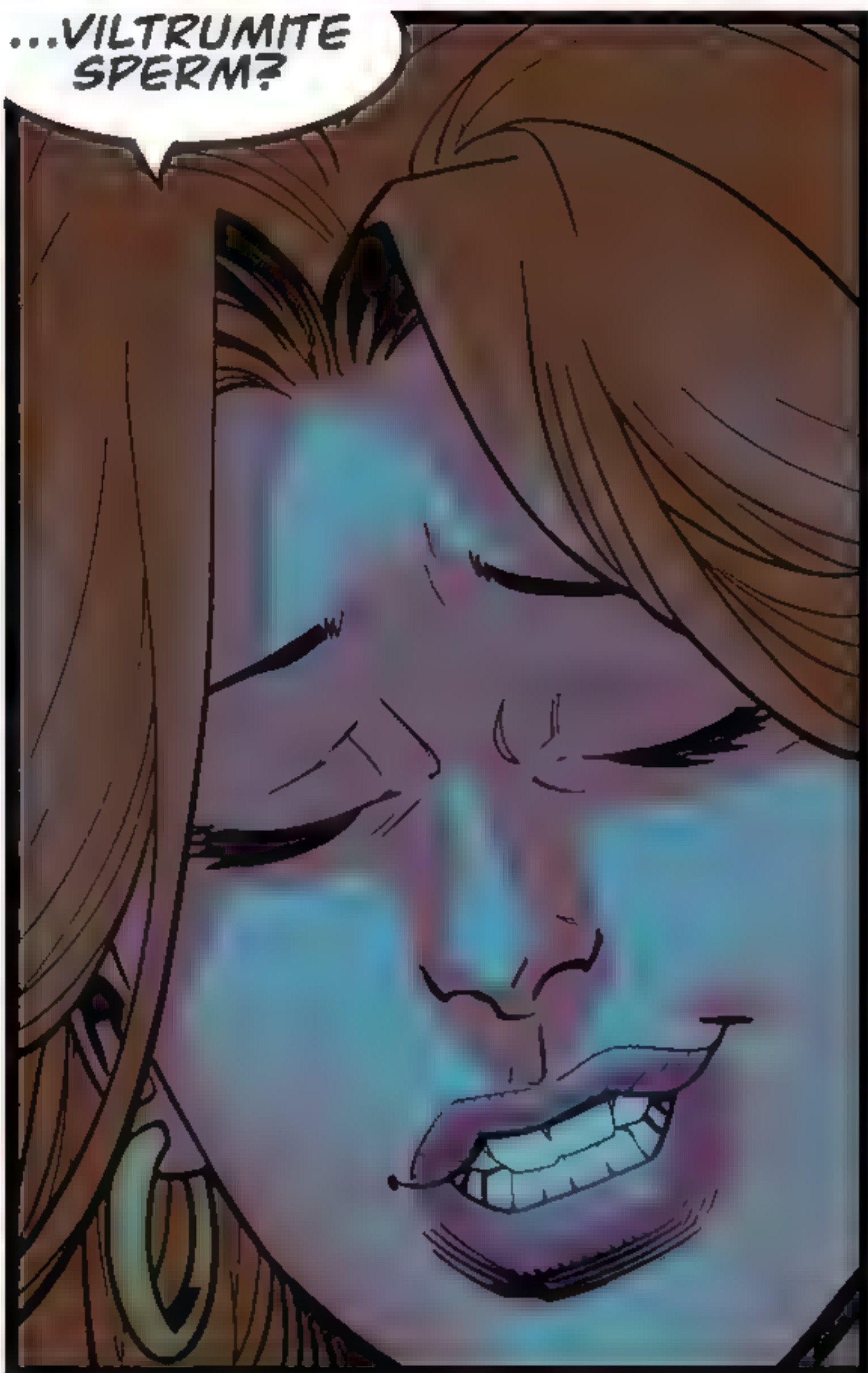


WE'RE CAREFUL. WE'RE NOT STUPID. CONDOMS ARE LIKE NINETY-NINE POINT NINE PERCENT EFFECTIVE, RIGHT?

SO WHAT IS IT?



I DON'T KNOW...



...VILTRUMITE SPERM?



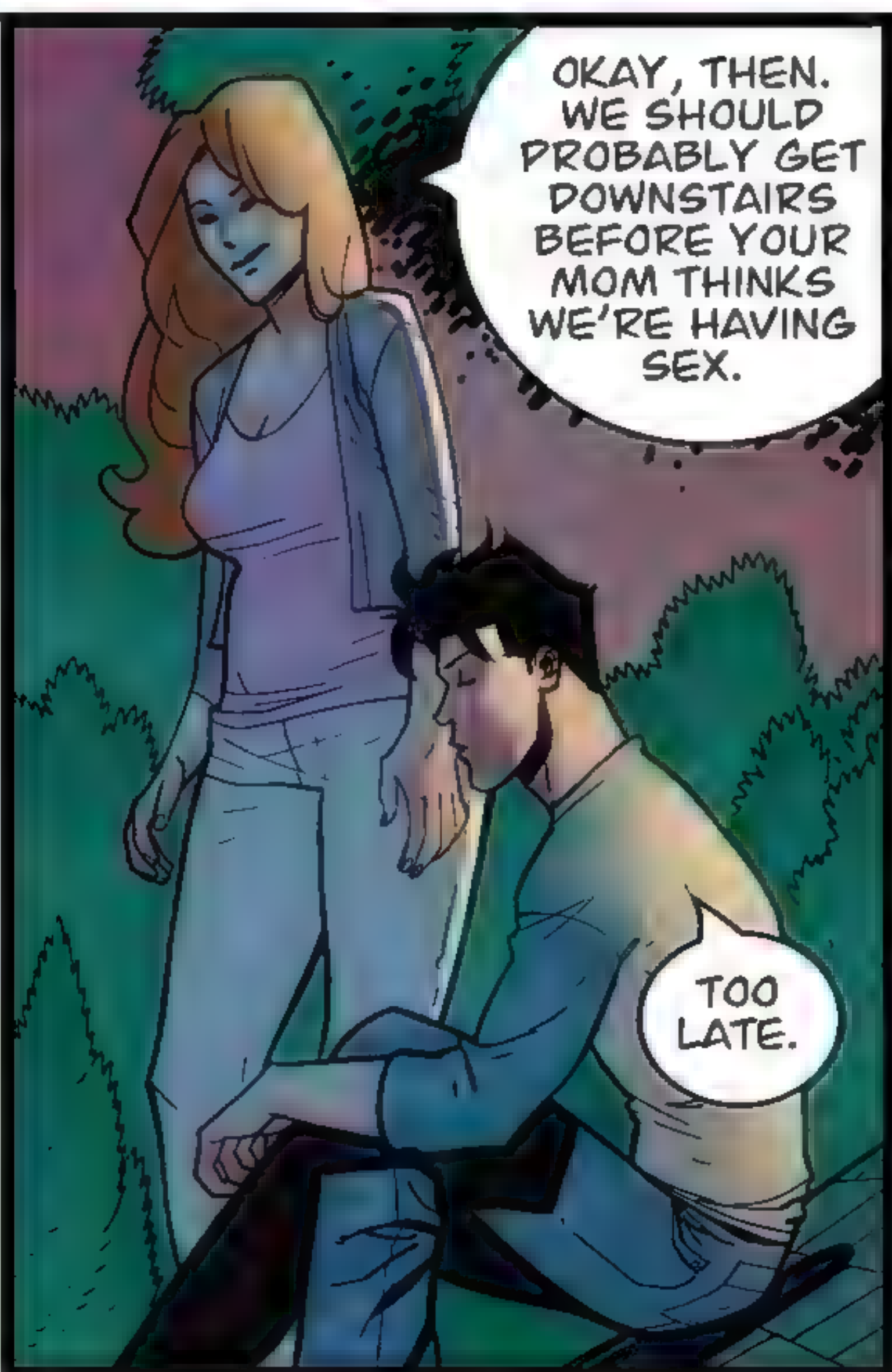
UGH... PLEASE, NEVER SAY THAT AGAIN.

GROSS.



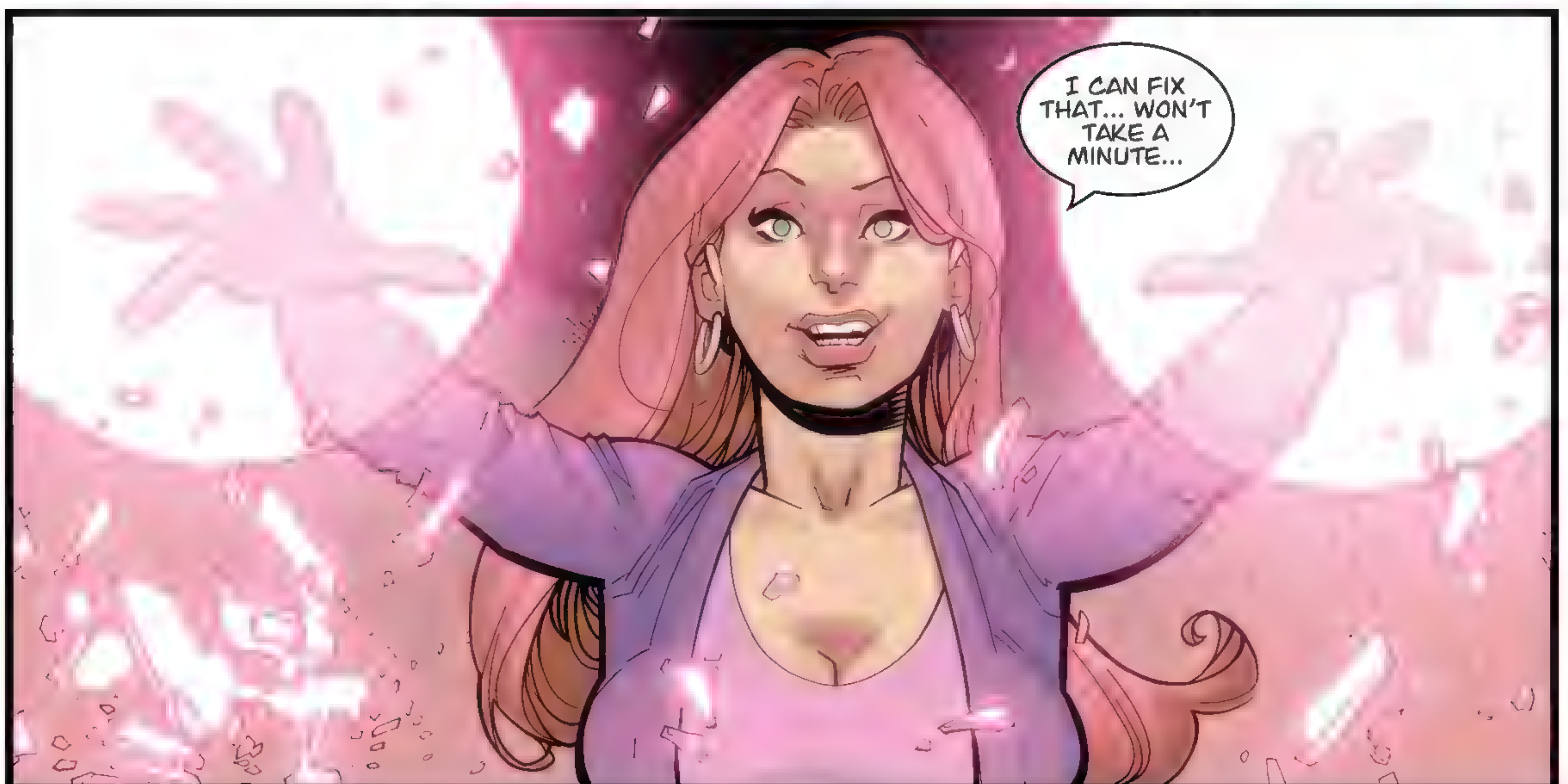
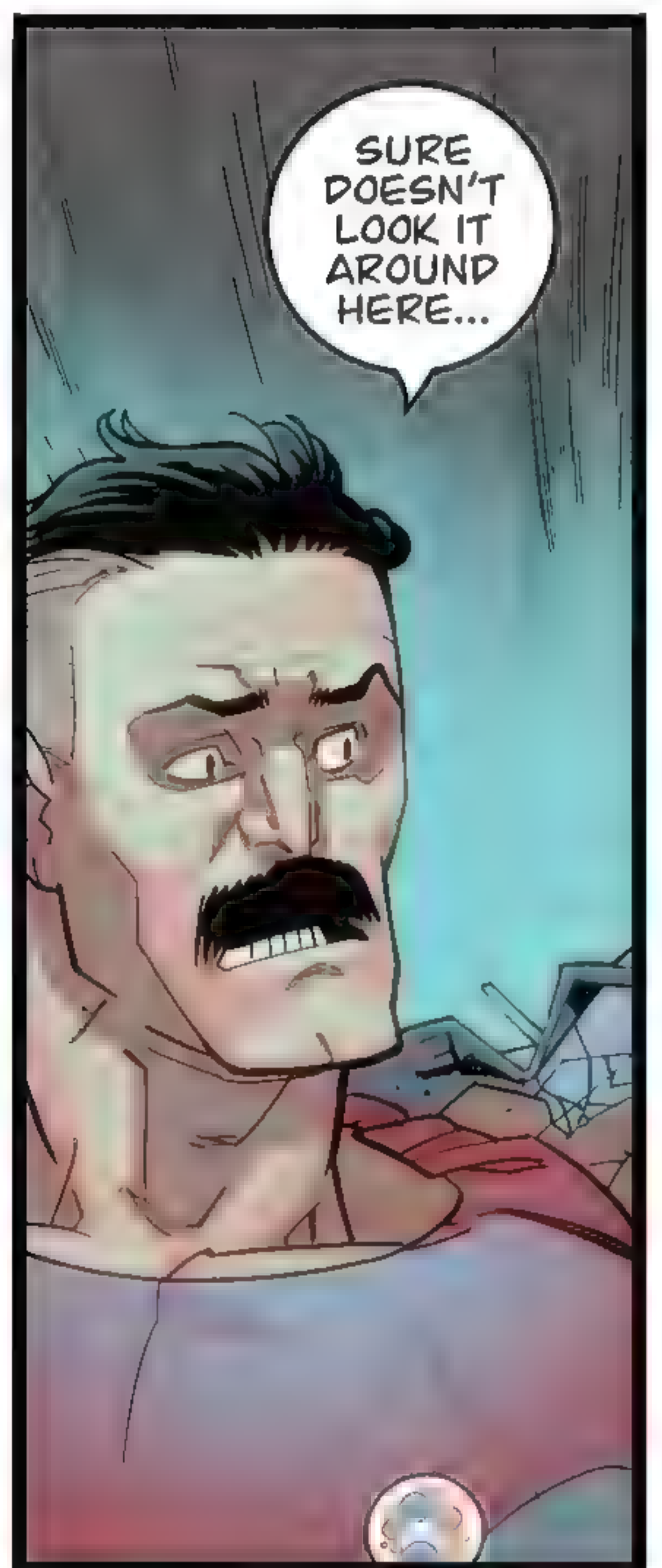
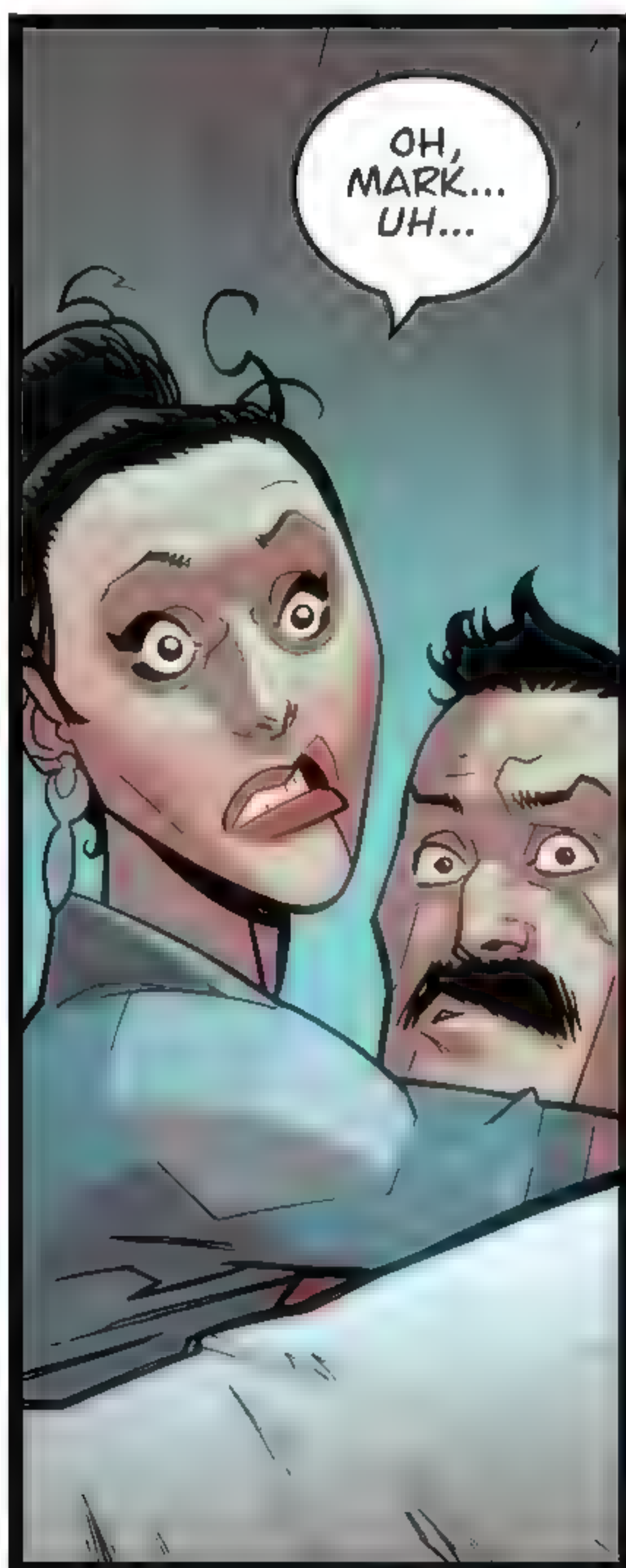
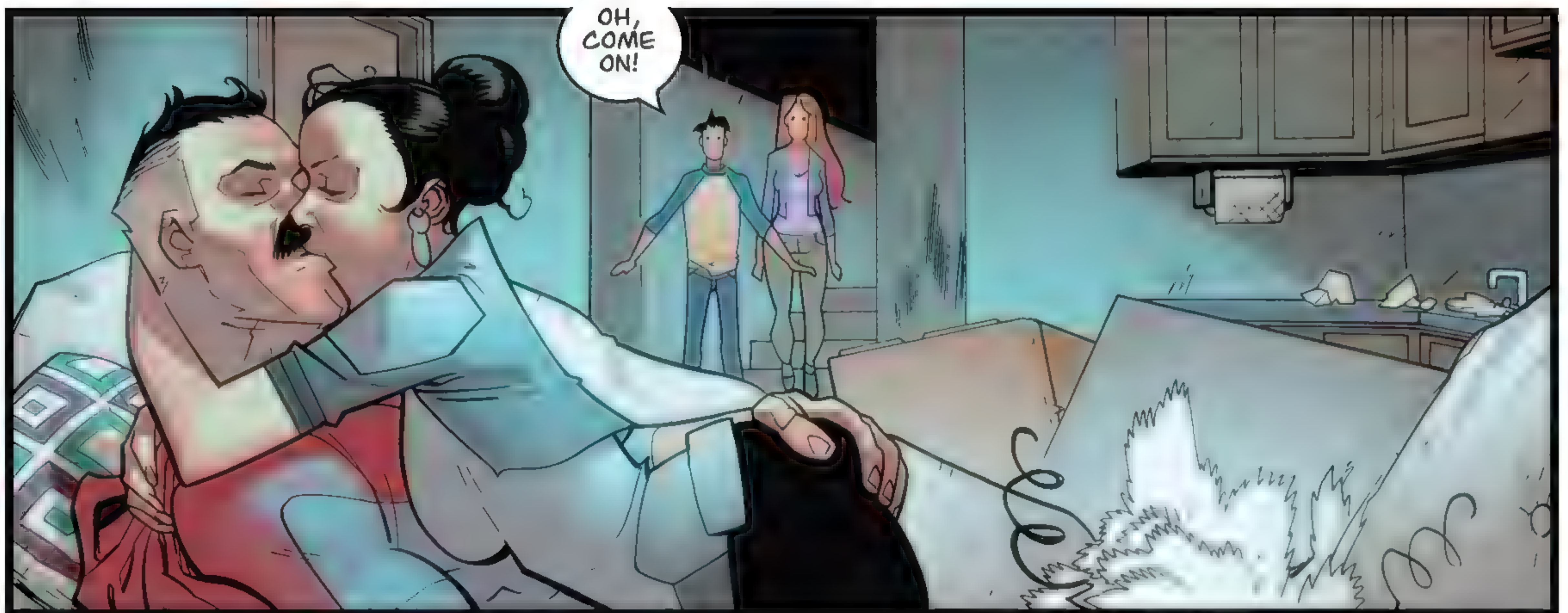
FINE. KEEP THIS JUST BETWEEN US FOR NOW, OKAY?

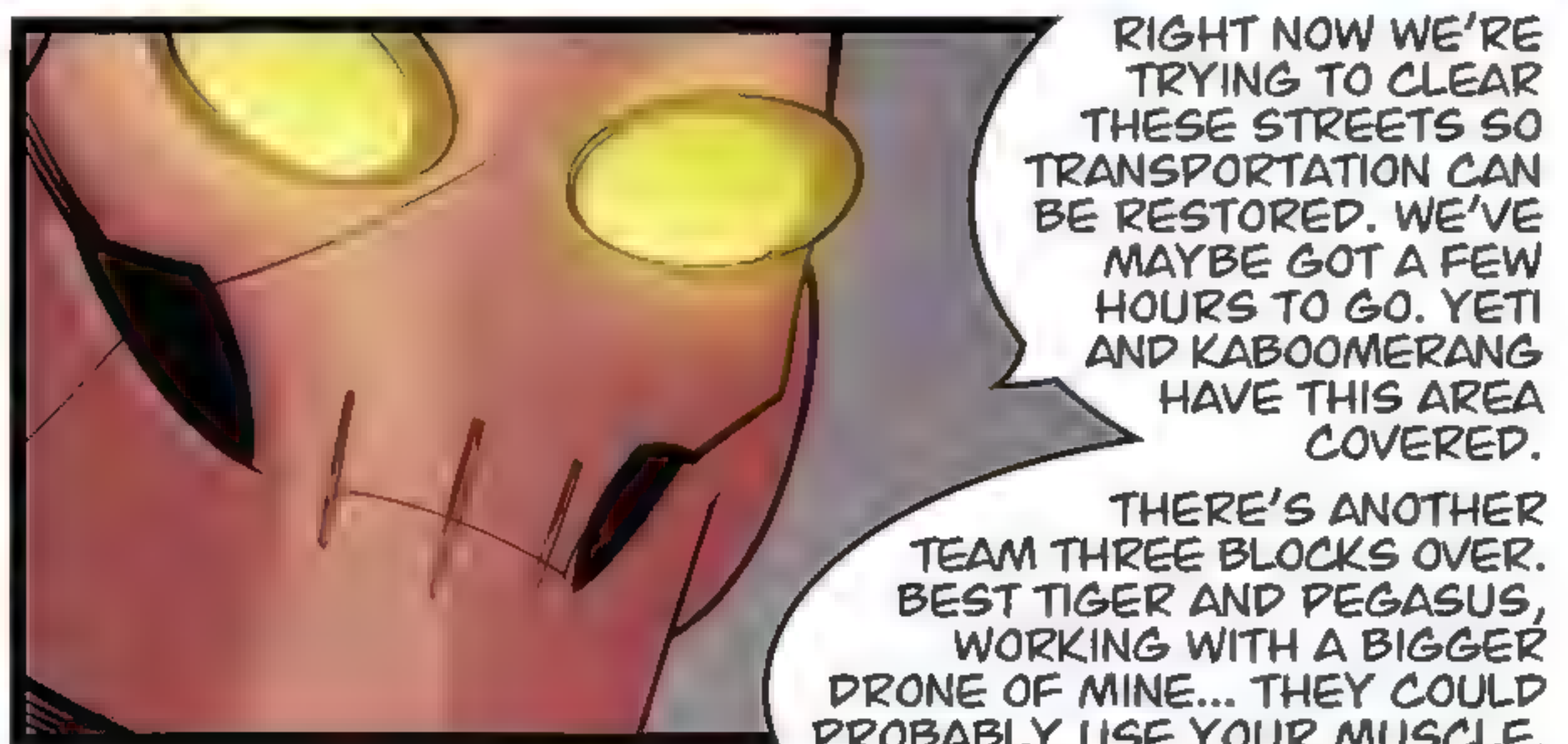
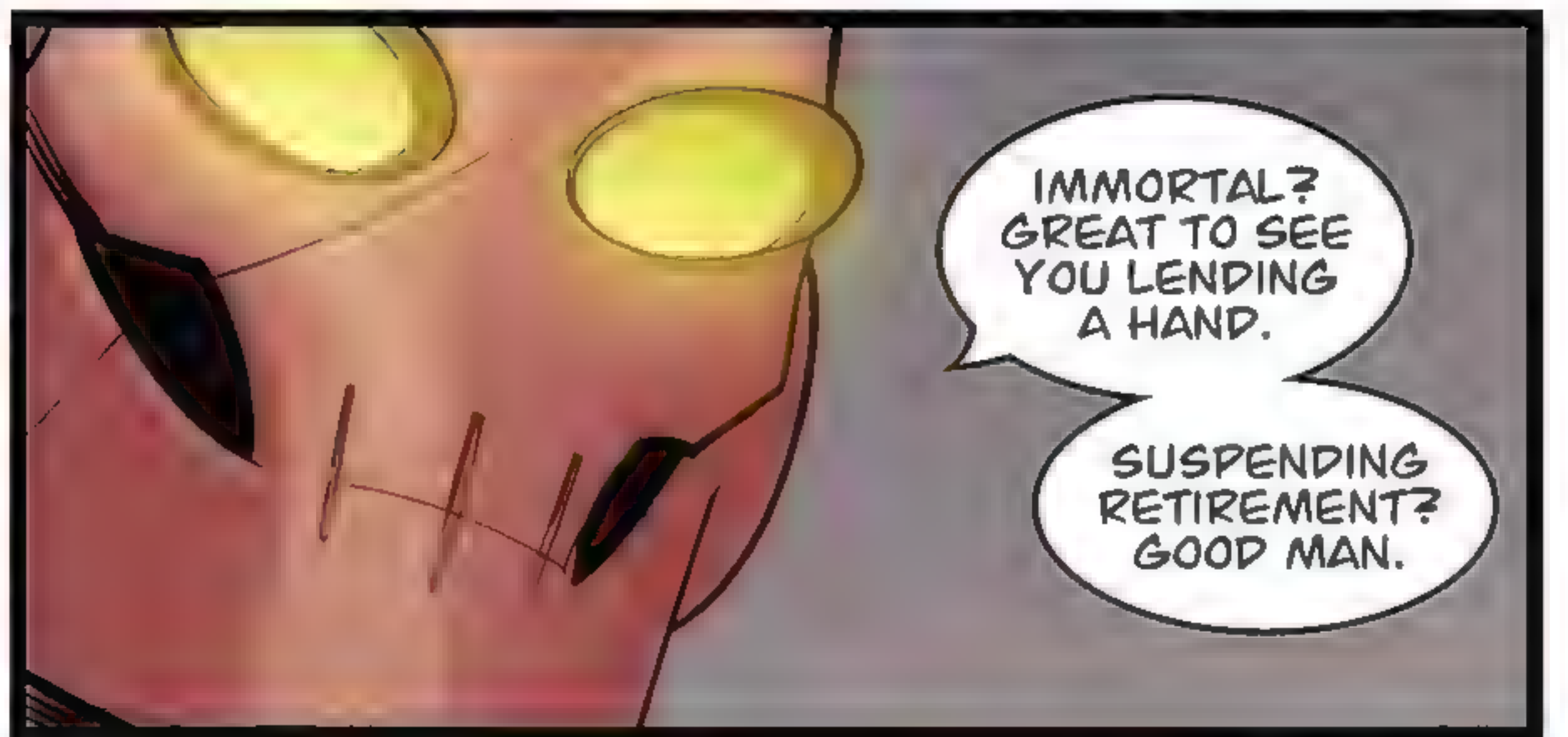
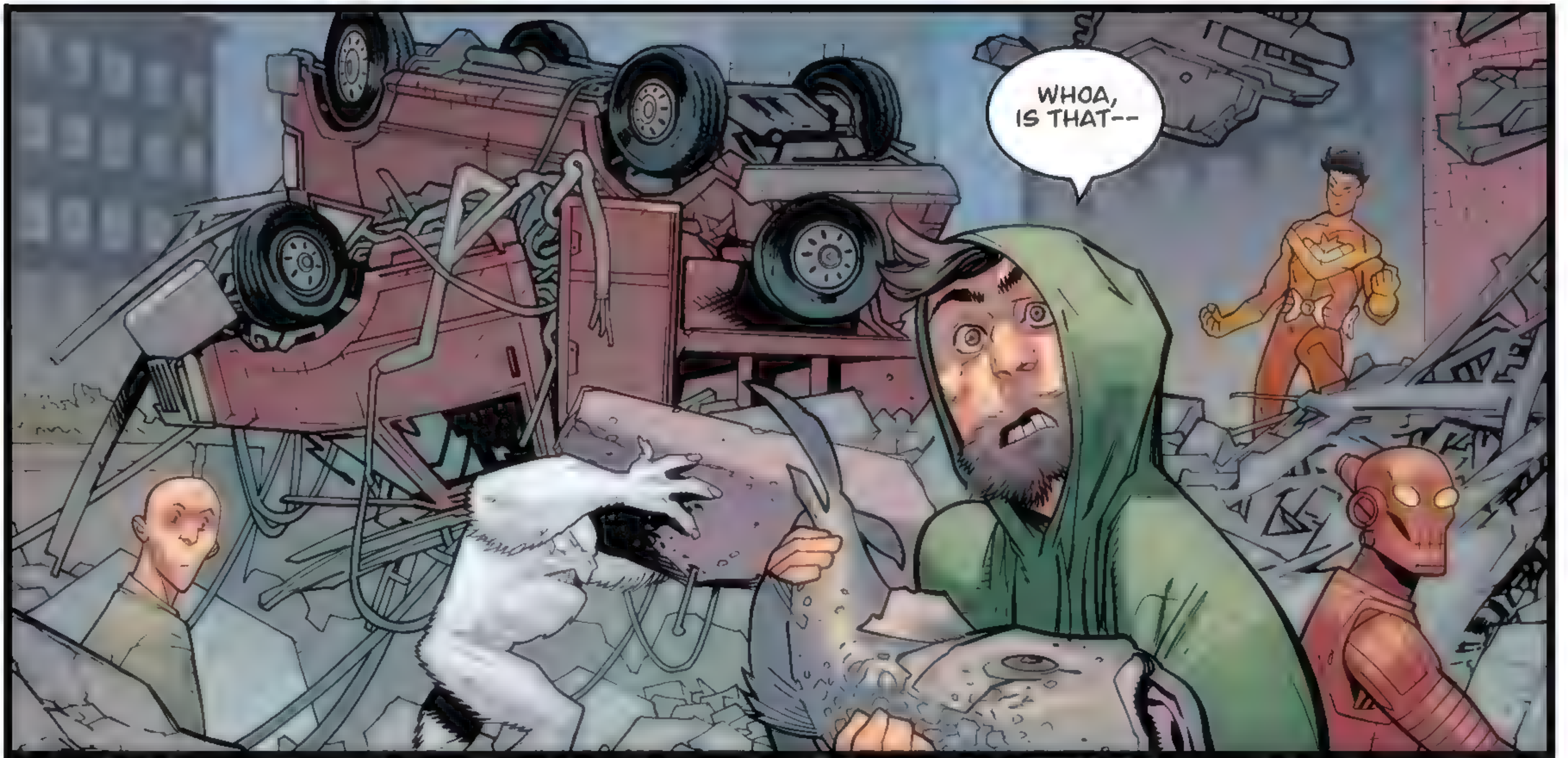
OF COURSE.

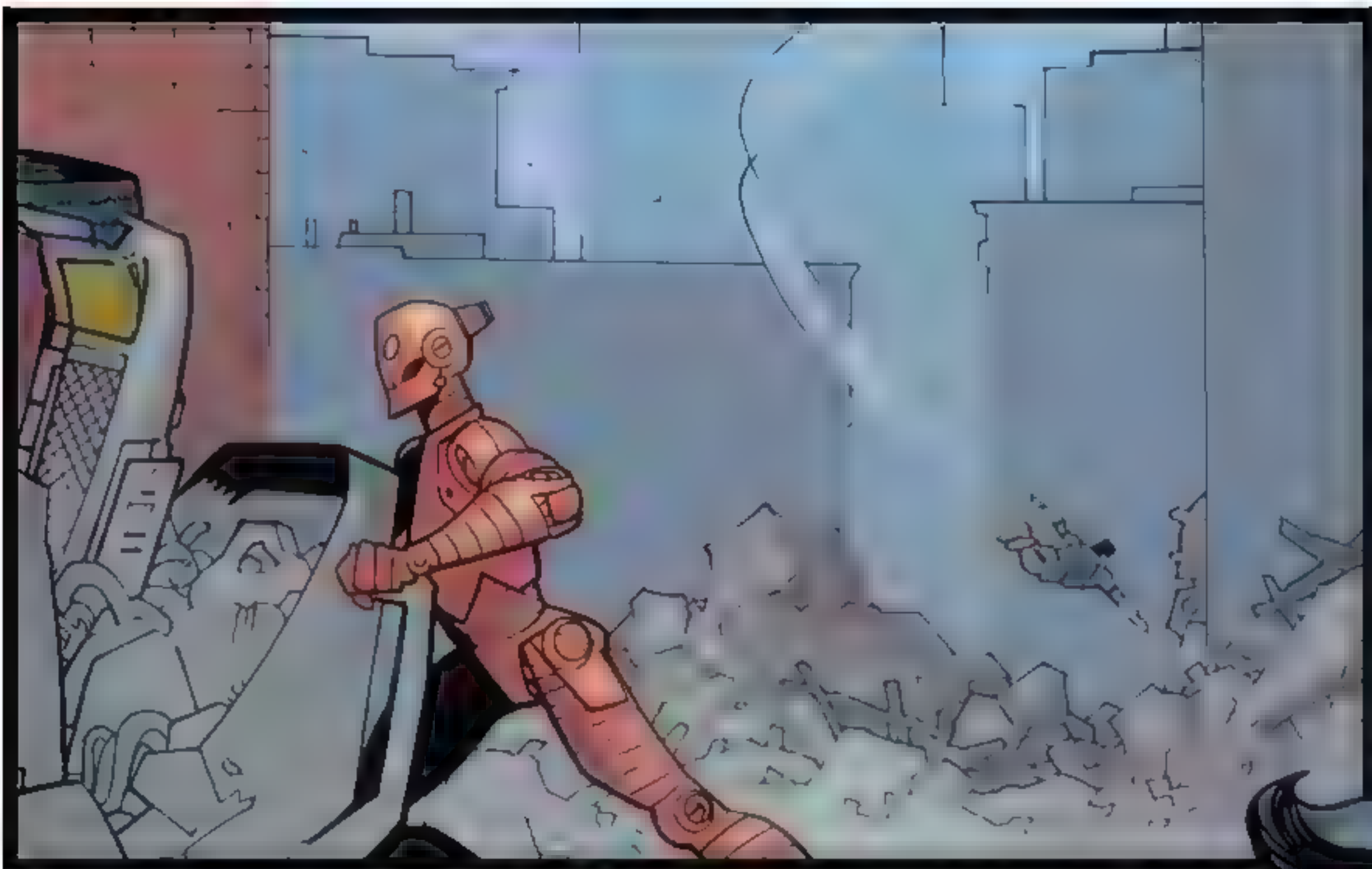


OKAY, THEN. WE SHOULD PROBABLY GET DOWNSTAIRS BEFORE YOUR MOM THINKS WE'RE HAVING SEX.

TOO LATE.





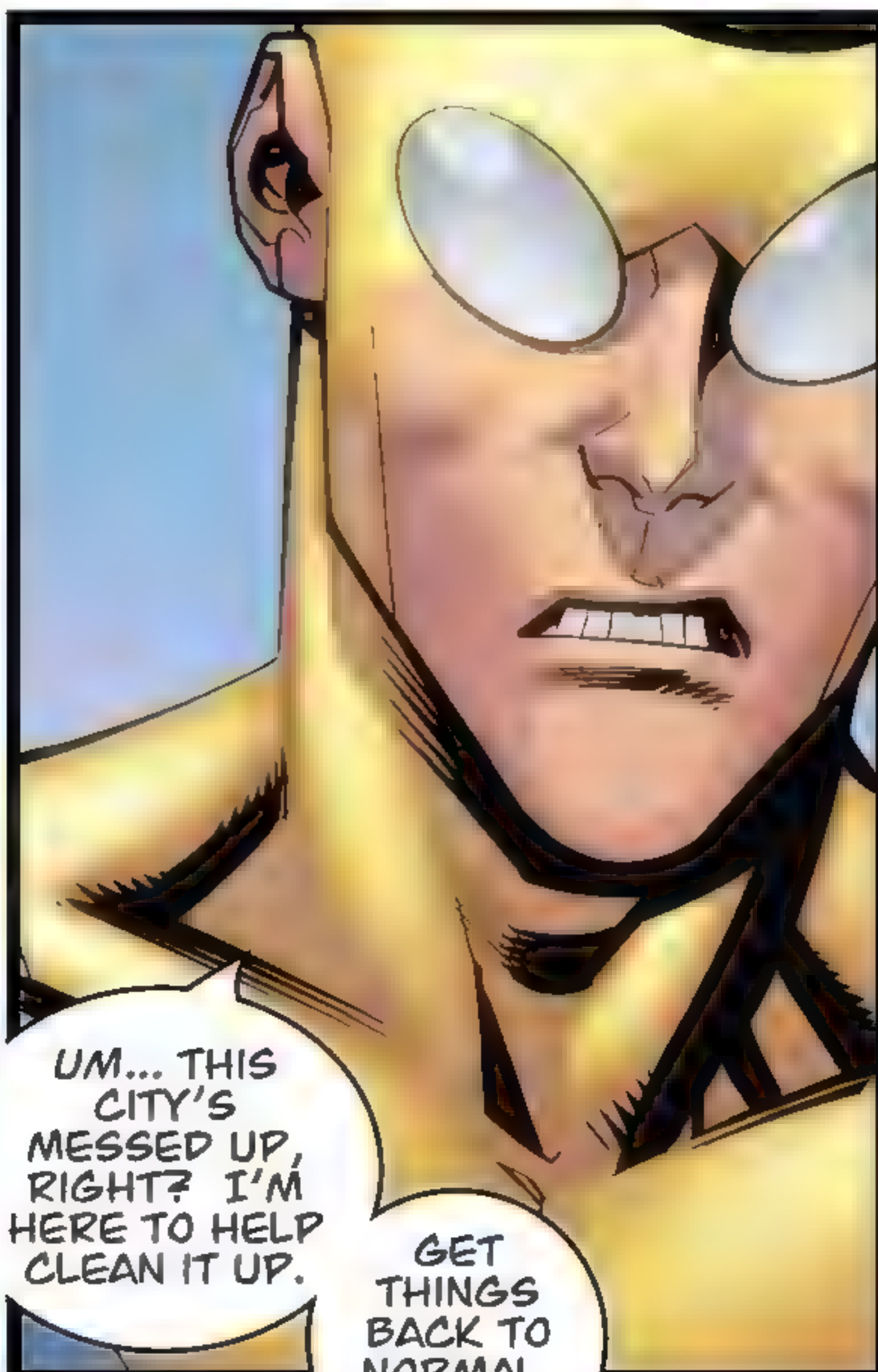


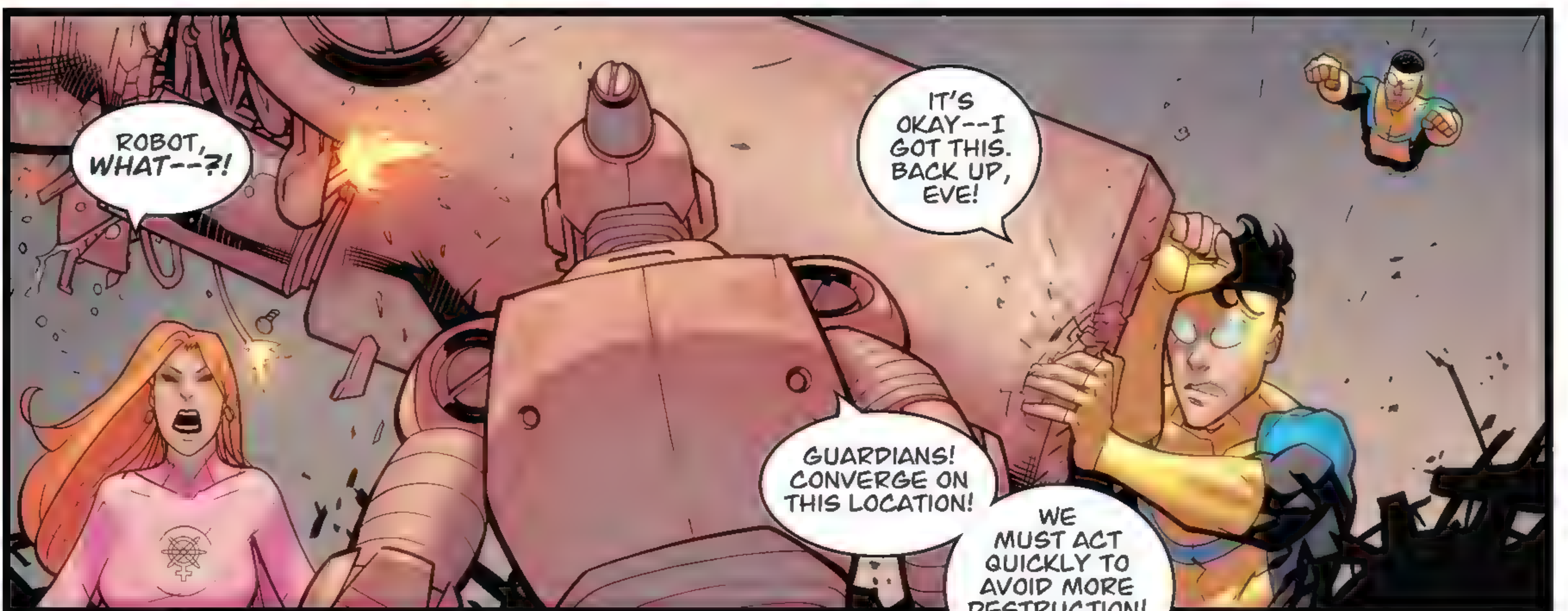
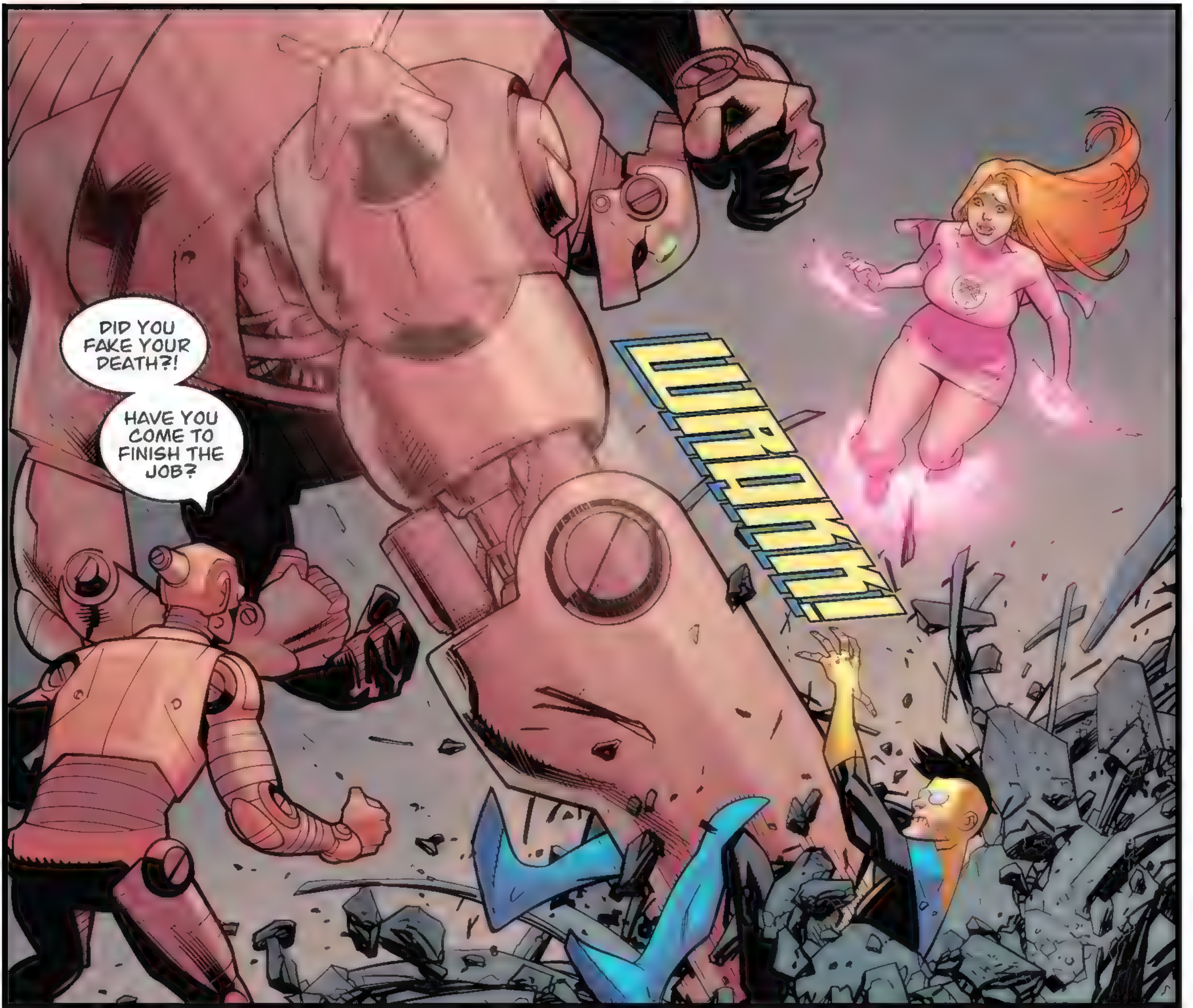
CECIL TOLD ME YOU GUYS WERE WORKING HERE TODAY, TARGETING THINGS CITY BY CITY, FOCUSING ON ONE PLACE UNTIL IT'S DONE. SMART PLAN.

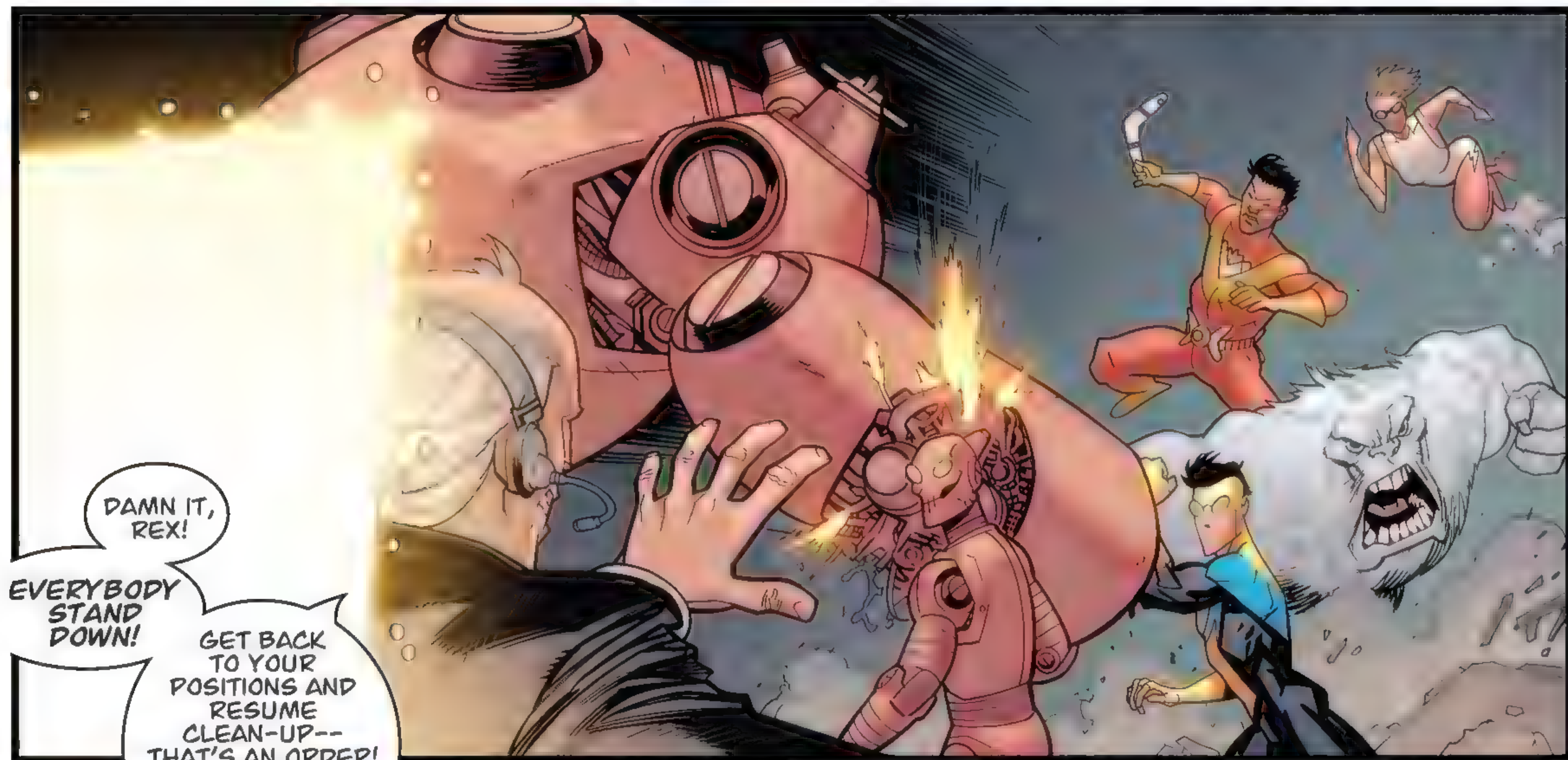
IS IT TRUE THE WHOLE SQUAD CAN CLEAN UP A CITY IN SIX HOURS? THAT JUST SEEMS NUTS.

NO WORRIES IF YOU NEED TO SPLIT US UP. WE'LL GO WHEREVER WE'RE NEEDED MOST.

YEAH, I'M ALREADY SICK OF THIS GUY.









REX,
COME
ON--JUST
STOP
THIS.

THERE ARE
MORE IMPORTANT
THINGS TO WORRY
ABOUT RIGHT NOW.



YOU THINK
I'M UNAWARE
OF THE
SITUATION
AROUND US?
I'M FULLY
AWARE--THAT'S
WHY I'M SO
ANGRY.

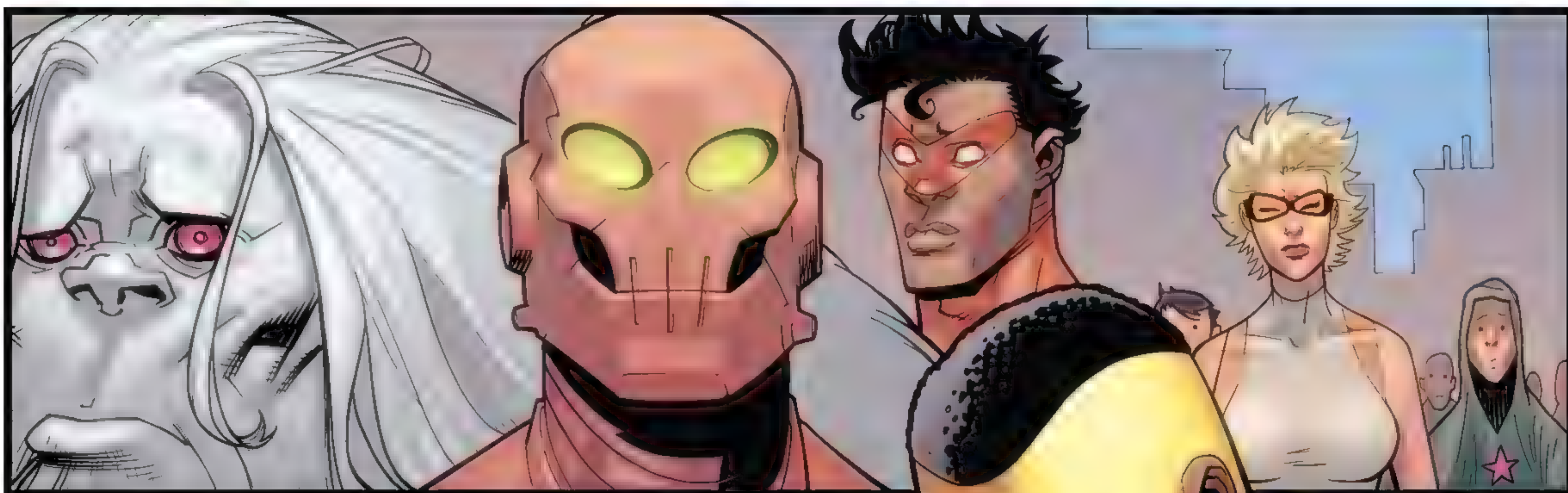
ALL THESE
DEATHS ARE
ON HIS
HANDS--THIS
HAPPENED
BECAUSE OF
HIM!



HE MADE A
MISTAKE,
OKAY?! YES--
TERRIBLE THINGS
HAPPENED
BECAUSE OF IT!
YES--PEOPLE
DIED!

YOU DON'T
THINK THAT'S
GOING TO BE
HARD FOR HIM TO
LIVE WITH?! YOU
THINK THAT WON'T
HAUNT EVERY
WAKING
MOMENT OF
HIS LIFE?!

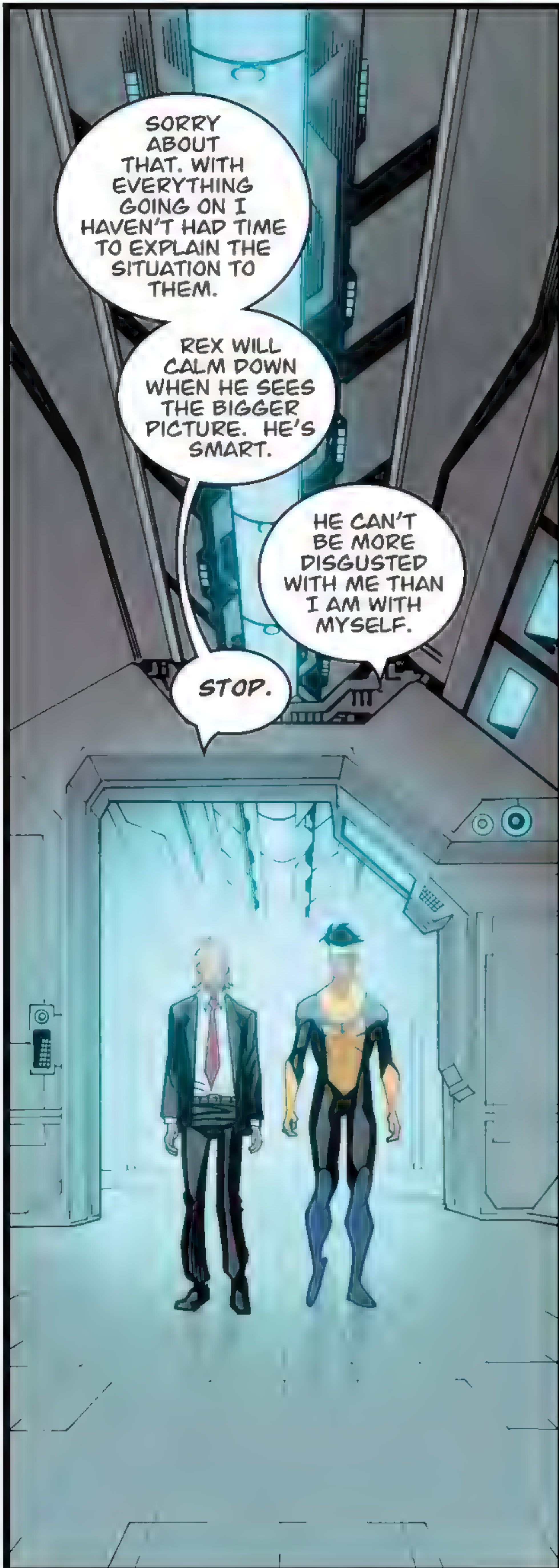
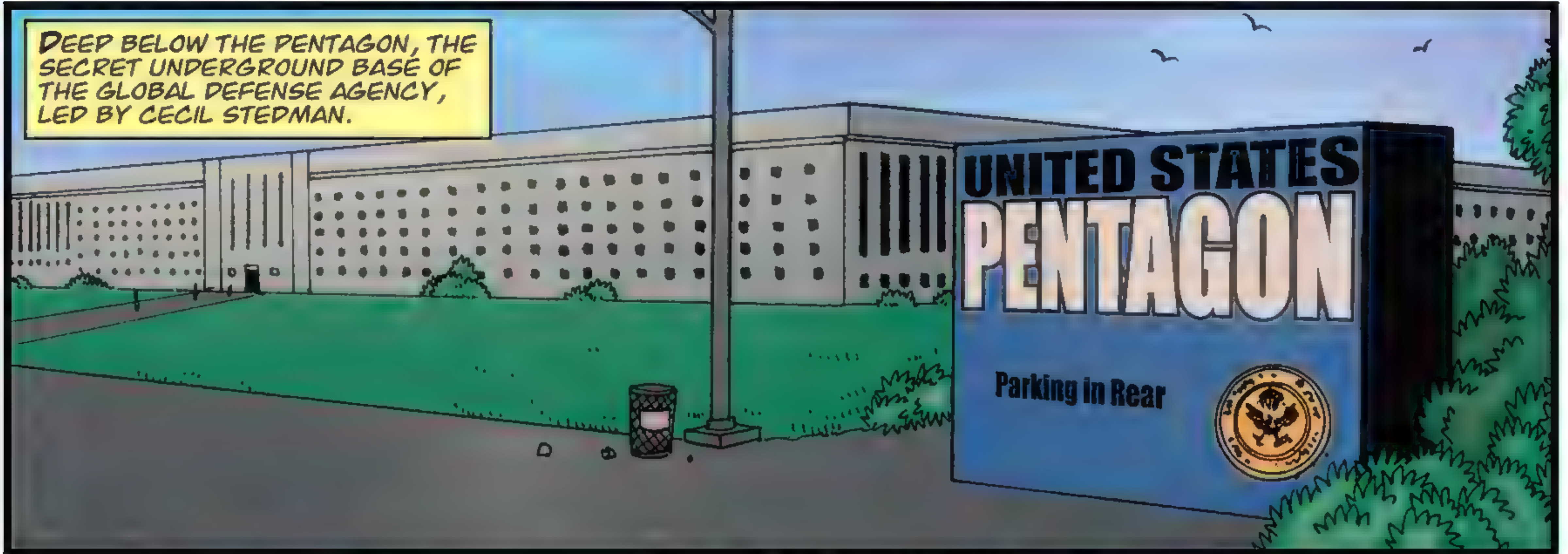
IT WAS A
MISTAKE. ONE
I'M SURE HE'D
TAKE BACK IF HE
COULD! YOU'RE
GOING TO TURN
AGAINST HIM WHEN
HE'S DOING ALL HE
CAN TO MAKE
THINGS
RIGHT?!



JUST
IGNORE
THEM,
EVE.

EVERYONE'S
ON EDGE
LATELY.







WHY EXACTLY DID YOU WANT TO SEE THIS?

I MARKED HIS SIXTH VERTEBRAE WITH MY THUMB.

I WANTED TO MAKE SURE HE'S DEAD... THAT YOU DIDN'T SOMEHOW REVIVE HIM, ALLOW HIM TO REVERT TO HUMAN FORM TO HEAL HIMSELF... TRY TO KEEP HIM IN SECRET, TO USE HIM LATER...

...LIKE YOU DID WITH CONQUEST.

I DIDN'T KNOW IF...

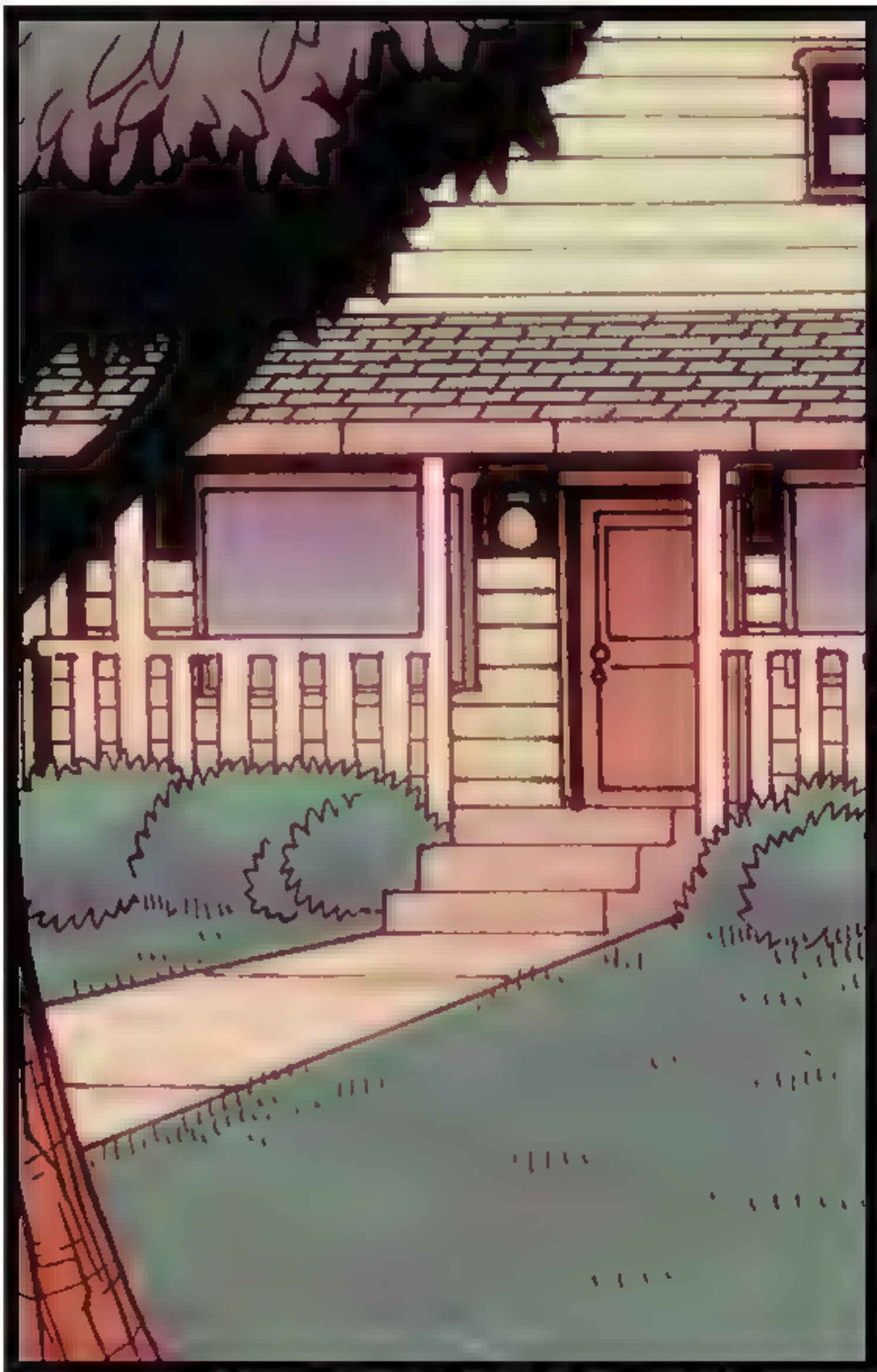
YOU... NEVER DID MENTION THAT.

DURING THE VILTRUMITE WAR... I KILLED HIM... AGAIN.

I NEVER BROUGHT IT UP... I WAS KEEPING THE VILTRUMITES ON EARTH FROM YOU... DIDN'T SEEM RIGHT... DIDN'T SEE THE POINT.

SO... YOU CAN HELP WITH EVE? AND MY DAD?

UH... YEAH. OF COURSE.



WHAT?!

I CAN COME BACK.

NO, IT'S FINE.

EVE, WE CAN'T TAKE THIS ON-- IT'S TOO **IMPORTANT**. THIS... IT'S OUR CHILD WE'RE TALKING ABOUT. AND WITH OUR POWERS WE JUST DON'T KNOW HOW THINGS ARE GOING TO WORK OUT AND...

...WE NEEDED HELP.



SO YOU WENT TO CECIL?! YOU COULDN'T HAVE GONE TO ROBOT?! ANYONE WHO WASN'T **DIRECTLY** TIED TO THE GOVERNMENT-- THE SAME GOVERNMENT, IF YOU'LL RECALL, THAT MADE ME IN THE FIRST PLACE--AND TRIED TO TURN ME INTO A WEAPON!*

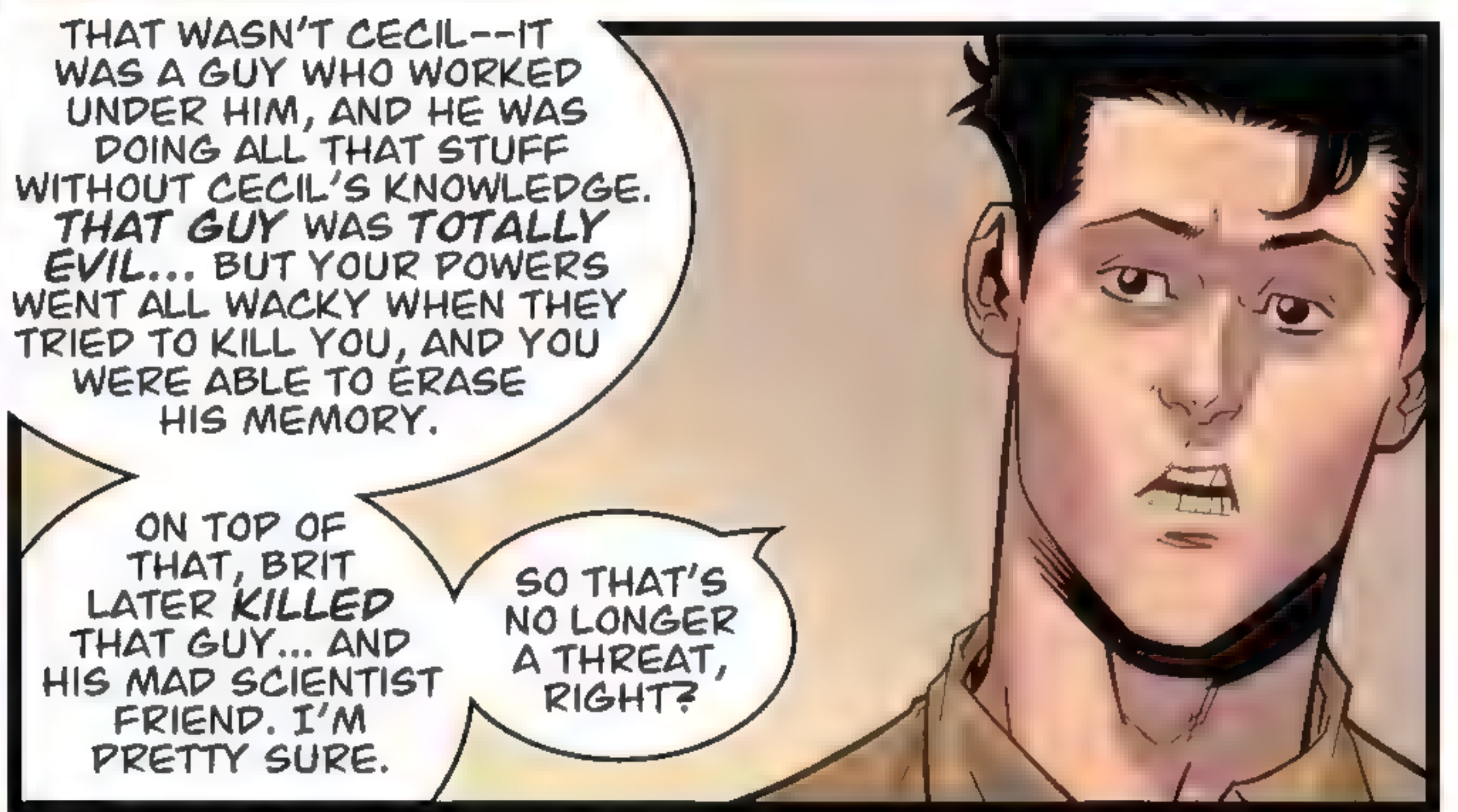
THEY KILLED MY REAL PARENTS TO GET TO ME--IF THIS KID HAS A MIXTURE OF OUR POWERS COMBINED-- IT MAY BE TOO TEMPTING TO--

*SEE 'INVINCIBLE PRESENTS: ATOM EVE & REX SPODE' FOR DETAILS.

THAT WASN'T CECIL--IT WAS A GUY WHO WORKED UNDER HIM, AND HE WAS DOING ALL THAT STUFF WITHOUT CECIL'S KNOWLEDGE. **THAT GUY WAS TOTALLY EVIL...** BUT YOUR POWERS WENT ALL WACKY WHEN THEY TRIED TO KILL YOU, AND YOU WERE ABLE TO ERASE HIS MEMORY.

ON TOP OF THAT, BRIT LATER **KILLED** THAT GUY... AND HIS MAD SCIENTIST FRIEND. I'M PRETTY SURE.

SO THAT'S NO LONGER A THREAT, RIGHT?



DAMN IT, MARK!

IF I CAN JUST JUMP IN. I DON'T WORK FOR ANY GOVERNMENT. I'M AN INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR WHO WORKS WITH SUPER-POWERED PARENTS. I WAS JUST **RECOMMENDED** BY CECIL.

YOU CAN CALL DUPLI-KATE AND IMMORTAL IF YOU'D LIKE. I DELIVERED THEIR TWINS AND HELPED KATE THROUGH HER PREGNANCY.

SEE-- COME ON... SHERRY'S NOT A BAD PERSON. WE CAN TRUST HER. WE NEED HER.

EVE?





WHAT ARE YOU--?

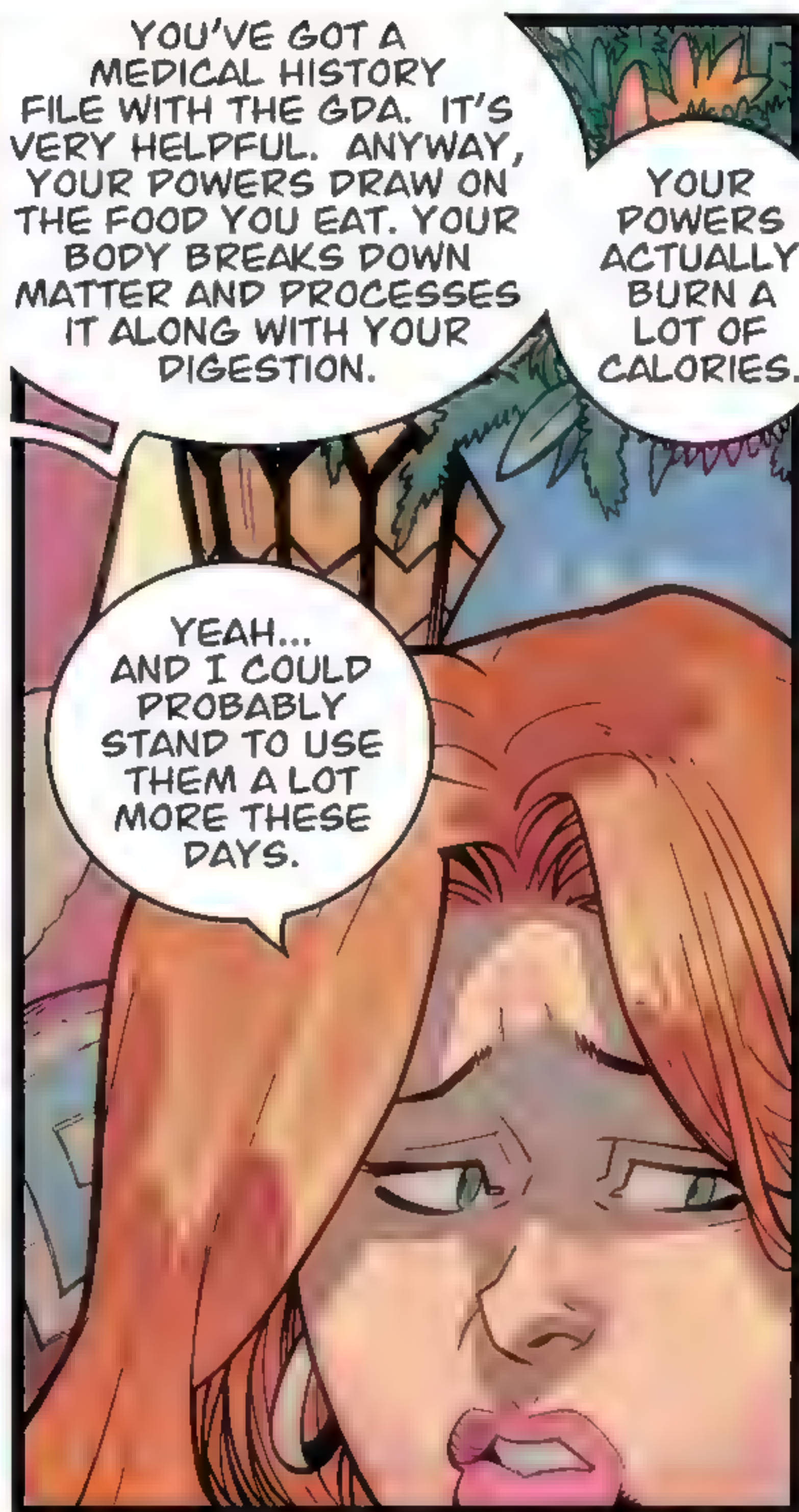
DON'T WORRY, I'M USING MY X-RAY VISION. IT'S LESS INVASIVE THAN AN ULTRASOUND AND I CAN SEE AND DETECT WAY MORE.

EVERYTHING LOOKS VERY GOOD. A PROMISING START, I'M HAPPY TO REPORT.



I KNOW FROM YOUR FILE--

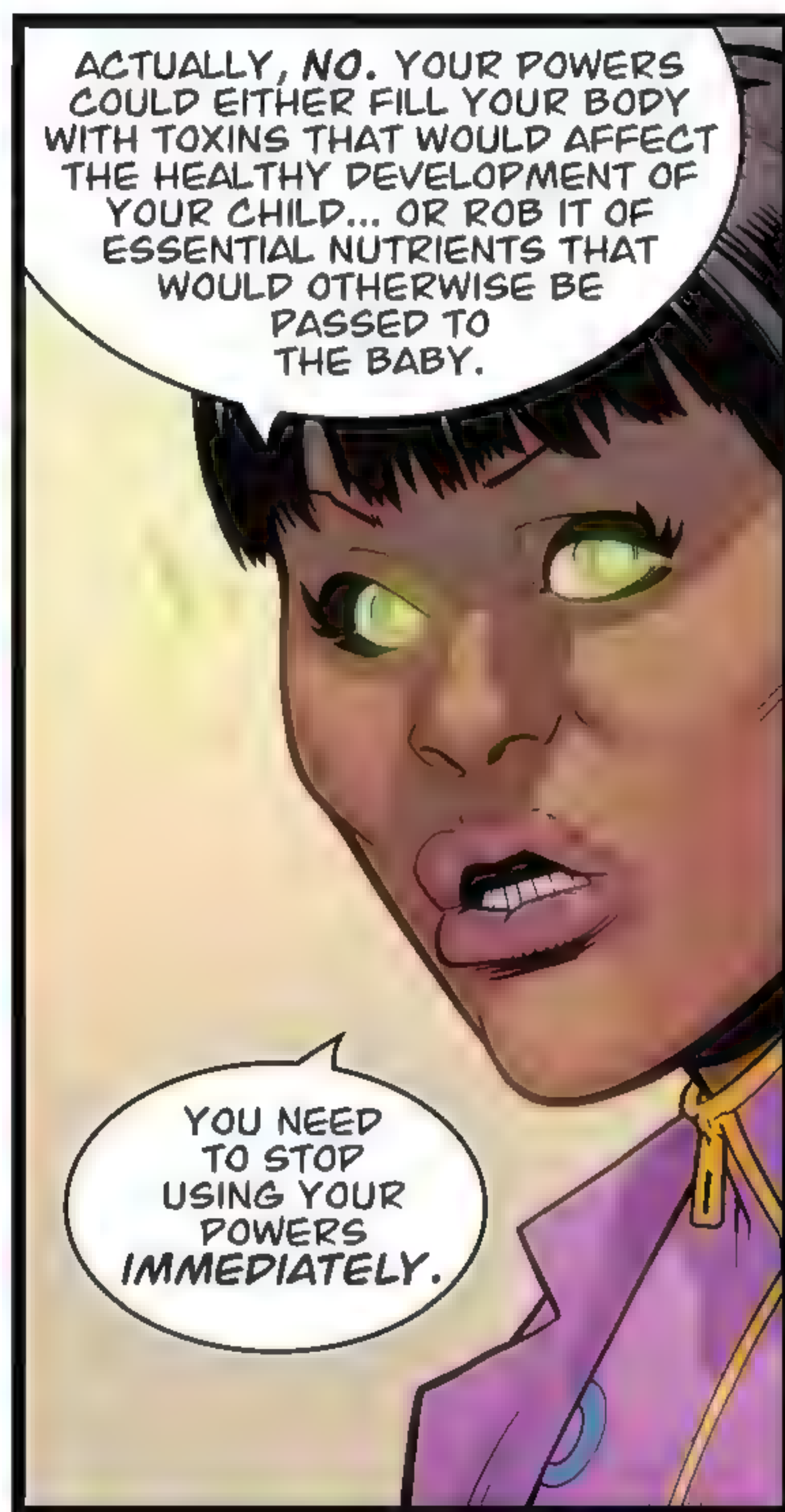
WHAT FILE?



YOU'VE GOT A MEDICAL HISTORY FILE WITH THE GDA. IT'S VERY HELPFUL. ANYWAY, YOUR POWERS DRAW ON THE FOOD YOU EAT. YOUR BODY BREAKS DOWN MATTER AND PROCESSES IT ALONG WITH YOUR DIGESTION.

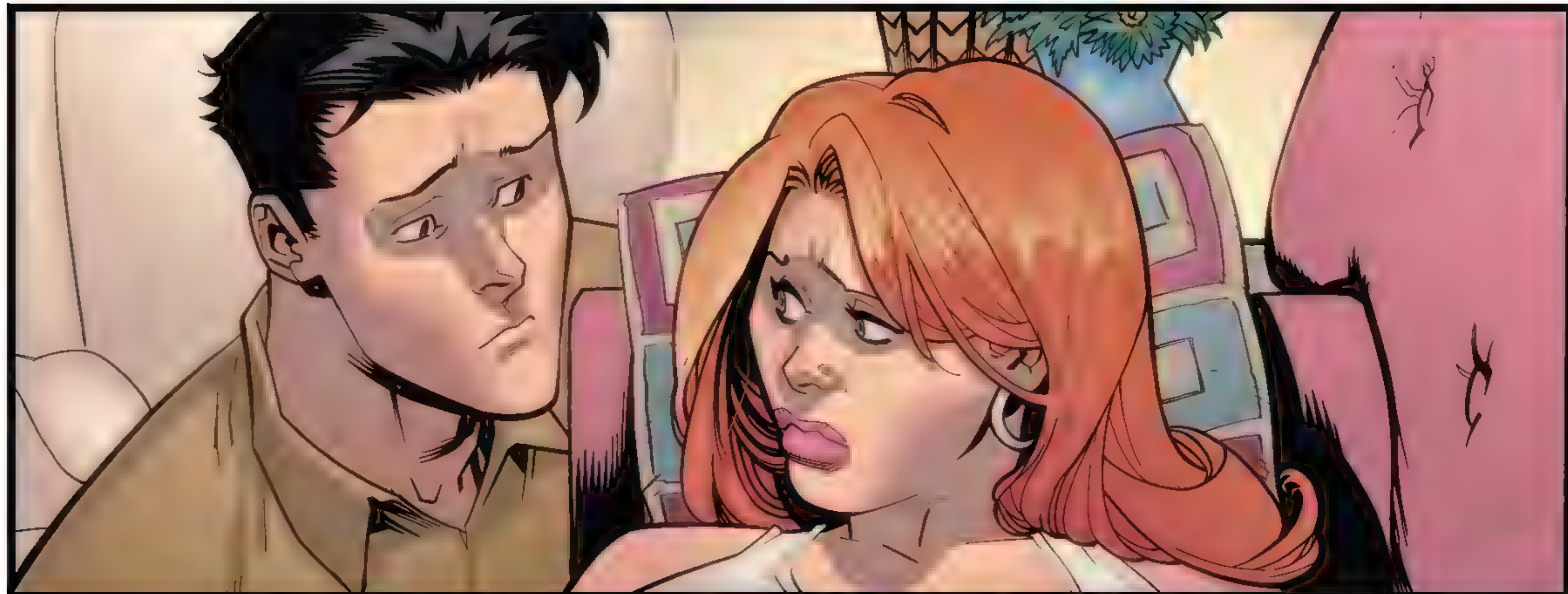
YOUR POWERS ACTUALLY BURN A LOT OF CALORIES.

YEAH... AND I COULD PROBABLY STAND TO USE THEM A LOT MORE THESE DAYS.

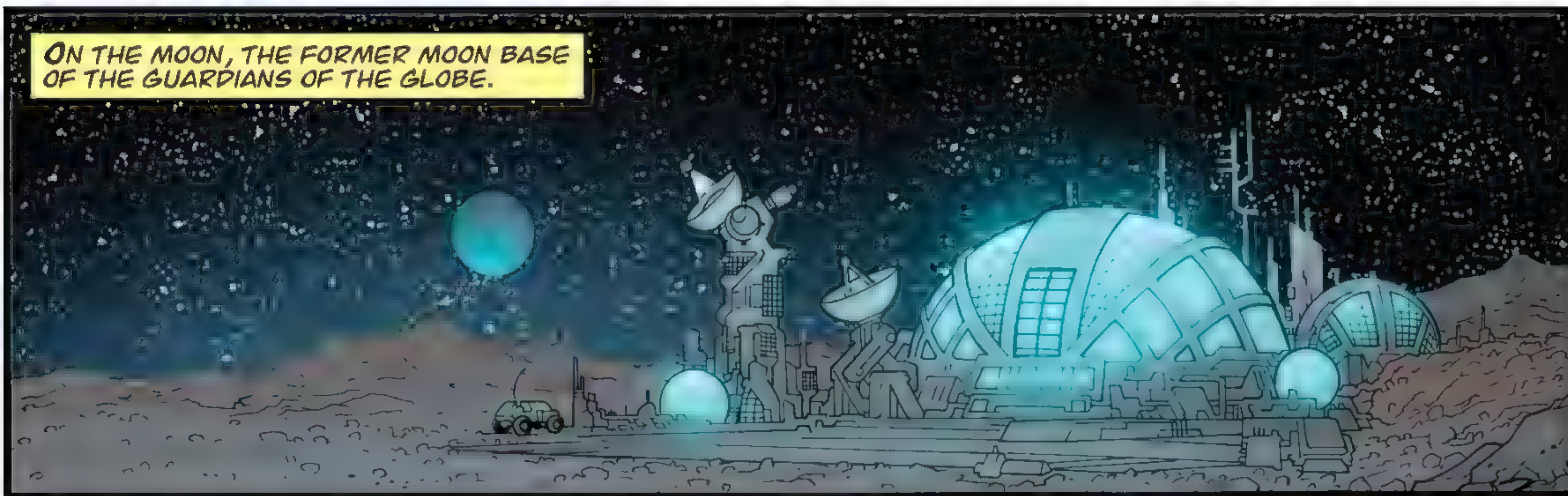


ACTUALLY, NO. YOUR POWERS COULD EITHER FILL YOUR BODY WITH TOXINS THAT WOULD AFFECT THE HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT OF YOUR CHILD... OR ROB IT OF ESSENTIAL NUTRIENTS THAT WOULD OTHERWISE BE PASSED TO THE BABY.

YOU NEED TO STOP USING YOUR POWERS IMMEDIATELY.



ON THE MOON, THE FORMER MOON BASE OF THE GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE.



YOU KNOW, WE NEVER TALKED. BEFORE, YOU WERE HERE SO BRIEFLY.

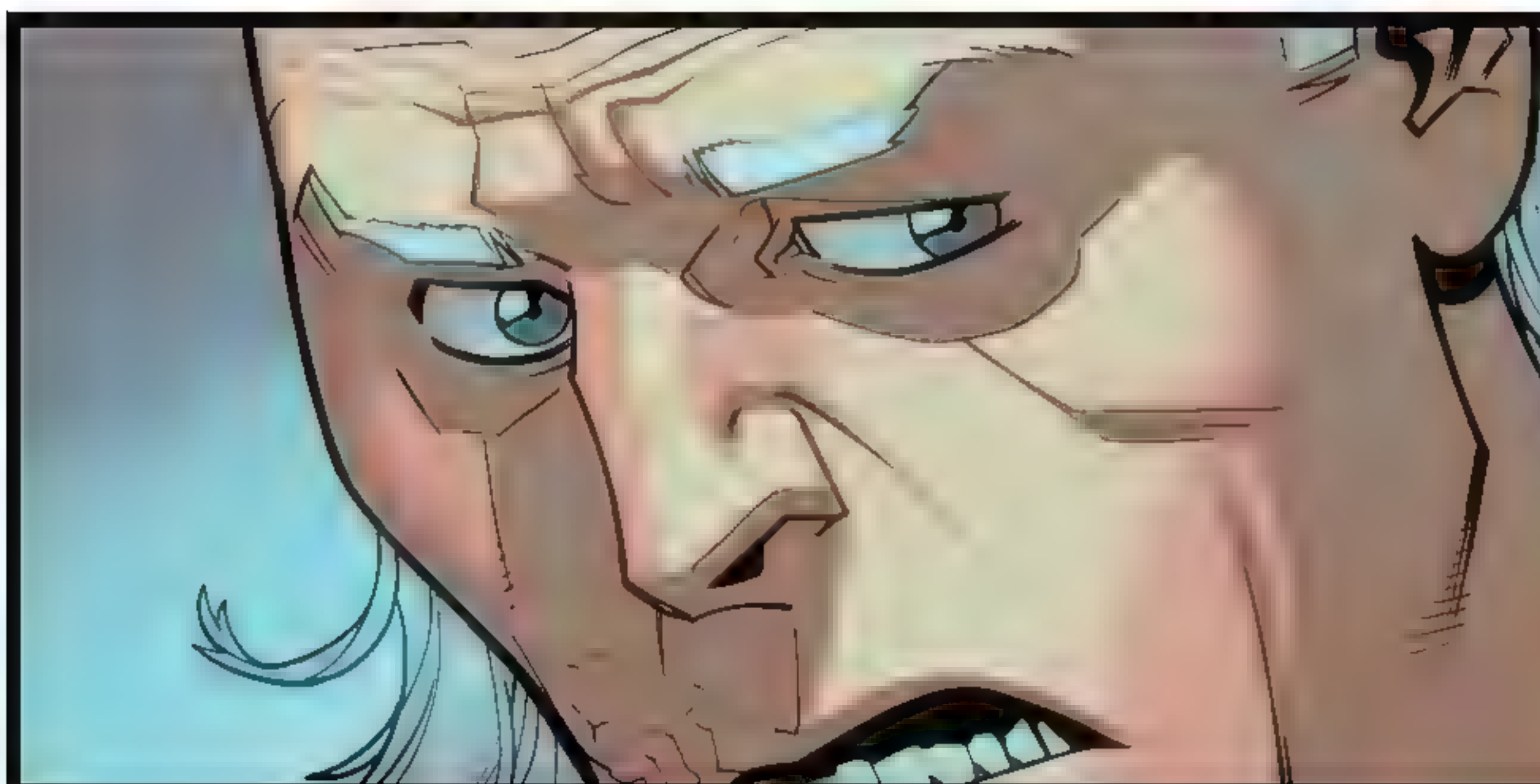
I NEVER GOT TO...

WHO AM I KIDDING? YOU WEREN'T "EVIL" IF THAT'S EVEN THE WORD FOR IT. YOU TRIED TO TAKE OVER THE PLANET FOR LIKE A MINUTE AND THEN YOU CAME TO YOUR SENSES AND LEFT.

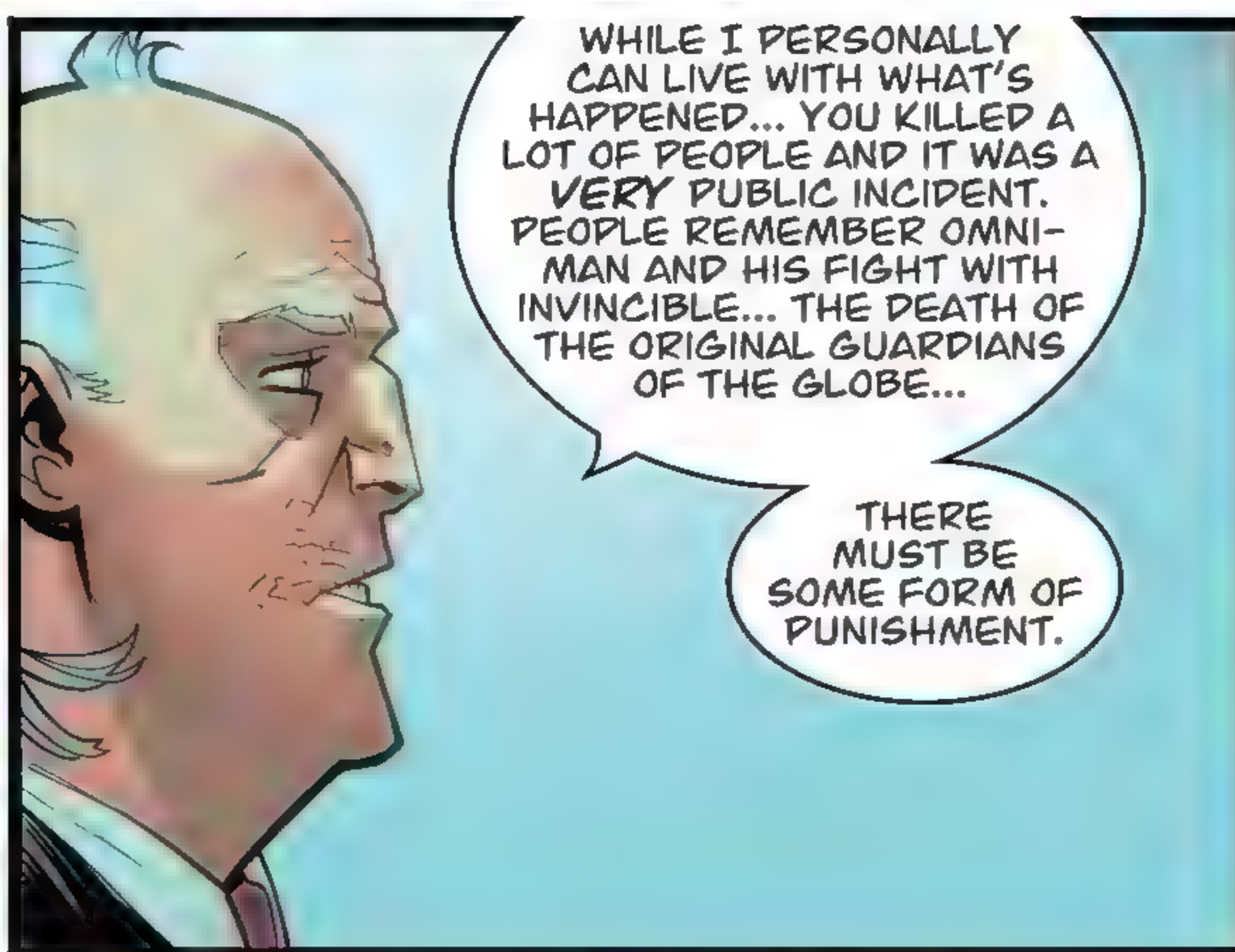
SINCE THEN, YOU'VE DONE NOTHING BUT GOOD FOR THIS PLANET. FIGHTING IN THE VILTRUMITE WAR, AND I WAS TOLD ABOUT YOU FIGHTING ALLEN TO TRY AND STOP HIM FROM BRINGING THE SCOURGE VIRUS HERE.

I WAS REALLY DAMN PISSED OFF AT FIRST, TO FIND YOU WERE KEEPING YOUR TRUE INTENTIONS FOR THIS PLANET A SECRET.

I'M THE SECRETS GUY. THAT'S MY THING.



I HAVE MANY REGRETS, THAT TIME IN MY LIFE WAS NOT MY PROUDEST MOMENT. BUT WHAT ARE YOU GETTING AT? WHY DID YOU BRING US HERE?



WHILE I PERSONALLY CAN LIVE WITH WHAT'S HAPPENED... YOU KILLED A LOT OF PEOPLE AND IT WAS A VERY PUBLIC INCIDENT. PEOPLE REMEMBER OMNI-MAN AND HIS FIGHT WITH INVINCIBLE... THE DEATH OF THE ORIGINAL GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE...

THERE MUST BE SOME FORM OF PUNISHMENT.



I'VE
CHOSEN
EXILE.

WHAT?!



I CAN'T LET YOU RETURN TO EARTH. IF IT'S DISCOVERED THAT YOU'RE JUST ROAMING FREE--IT WOULD BE A DISASTER. SOME OF THE HEROES WOULD COME AFTER YOU... YOU THINK THE IMMORTAL WOULD BE HAPPY TO SEE YOU?

THE GUY'S A BIT OF A JERK, BUT HE WOULDN'T BE WRONG TO HATE YOU.

NO, YOU LIVE **HERE** IN THIS SPACE STATION. THE GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE WERE USING IT AS A BASE, BUT THEY JUST MOVED TO THE NEW ORBITING TIDE-CONTROL SATELLITES.

THE SPACE HAS OPENED UP.



YOU CAN'T EXPECT US TO LIVE UP HERE?!



I DON'T EXPECT YOU TO DO ANYTHING. YOU CAN LIVE WHEREVER YOU DAMN WELL PLEASE.

YOUR HUSBAND HAS TO LIVE ON THE MOON.



YOU CAN'T ACTUALLY--

NO, DEBBIE. THIS IS OKAY. I... I DESERVE WORSE...



THIS IS THE SUPERHERO EQUIVALENT OF A SLAP ON THE WRIST. YOU NEED TO GO SHOPPING? HOP IN THE TELEPORTER AND SHOP AWAY.

YOU WANT TO SNEAK DOWN AND VISIT YOUR SON? YOU CAN FLY DOWN TO THE PLANET IN A MATTER OF MINUTES.

EASY.



THAT'S NOT IT, THOUGH. GONNA NEED YOU TO PAY SOME KIND OF RENT.

THING IS, THE VILTRUMITES ARE HERE, YOU KNOW THIS. AND THEIR BASE... IT'S A COUPLE THOUSAND MILES THAT WAY, ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE MOON.



ARE YOU SAYING YOU WANT ME TO CONFRONT THEM? DRIVE THEM AWAY?

I HAVE TO ADVISE AGAINST THAT. THRAGG WAS VERY CLEAR IN HIS STIPULATIONS.



NO, THAT'S NOT IT AT ALL. I JUST WANT YOU TO KEEP AN EYE ON THEM--BE THE FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE FOR EARTH IF THEY TRY SOMETHING.

SIMPLE ENOUGH, RIGHT?



I'M NOT EVEN GOING TO GIVE YOU A CHOICE.

CHECK THE PLACE OUT, IT'S QUITE COMFORTABLE. LET ME KNOW IF THERE'S ANY FURNITURE OR ANYTHING YOU NEED SENT UP HERE.

IT'S A NICE PLACE.



NOT A LOT OF PEOPLE AROUND EITHER... HEH.

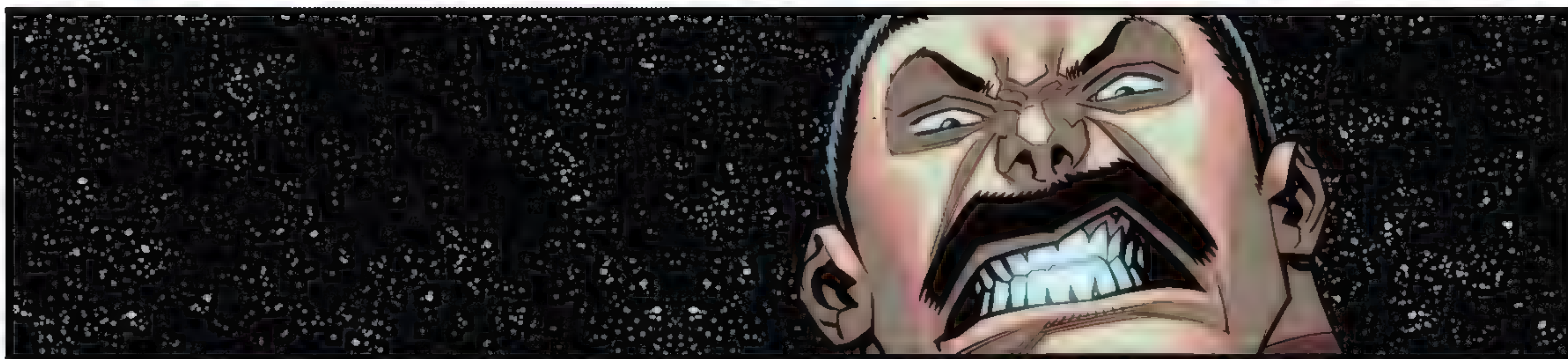
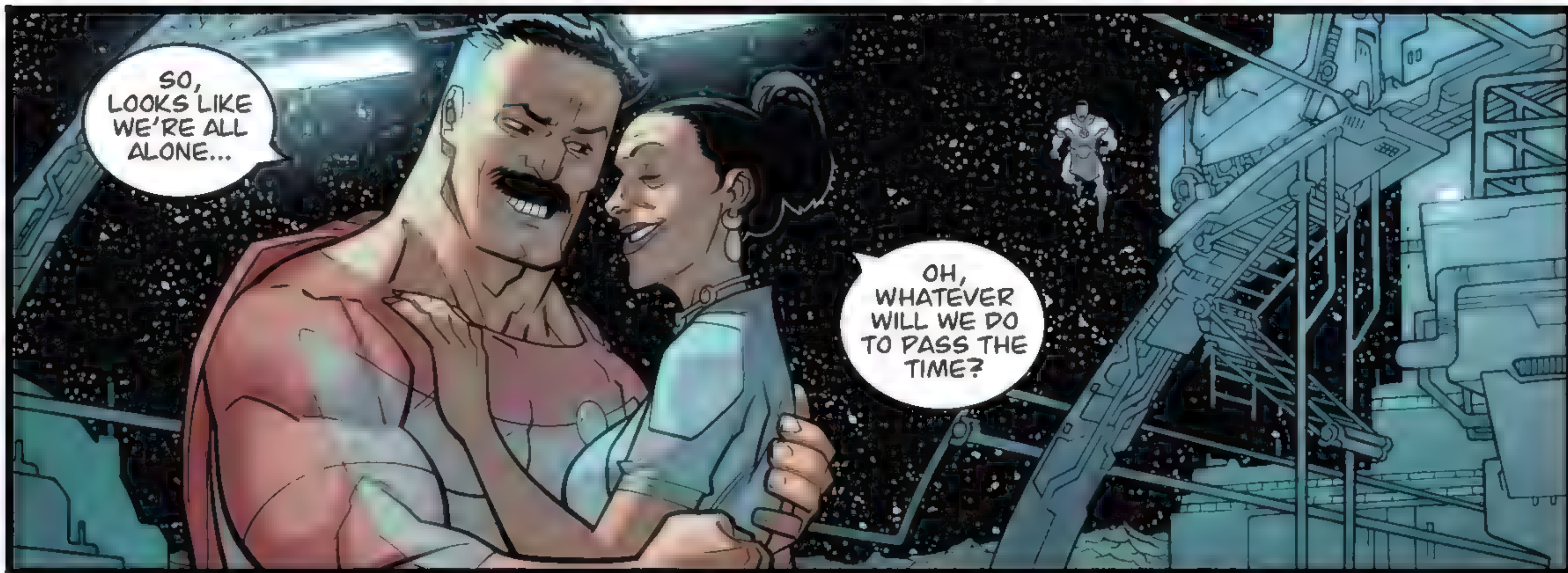
IT SHOULD END UP BEING QUITE PEACEFUL.

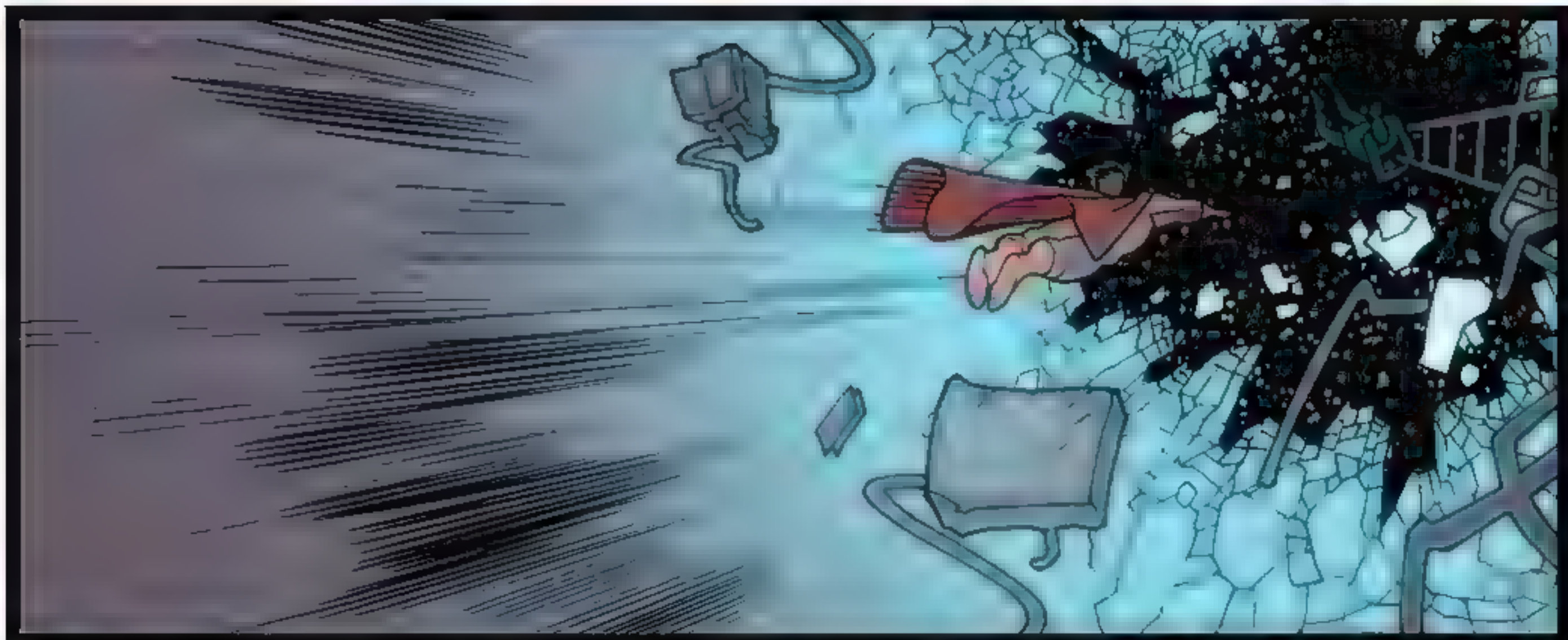
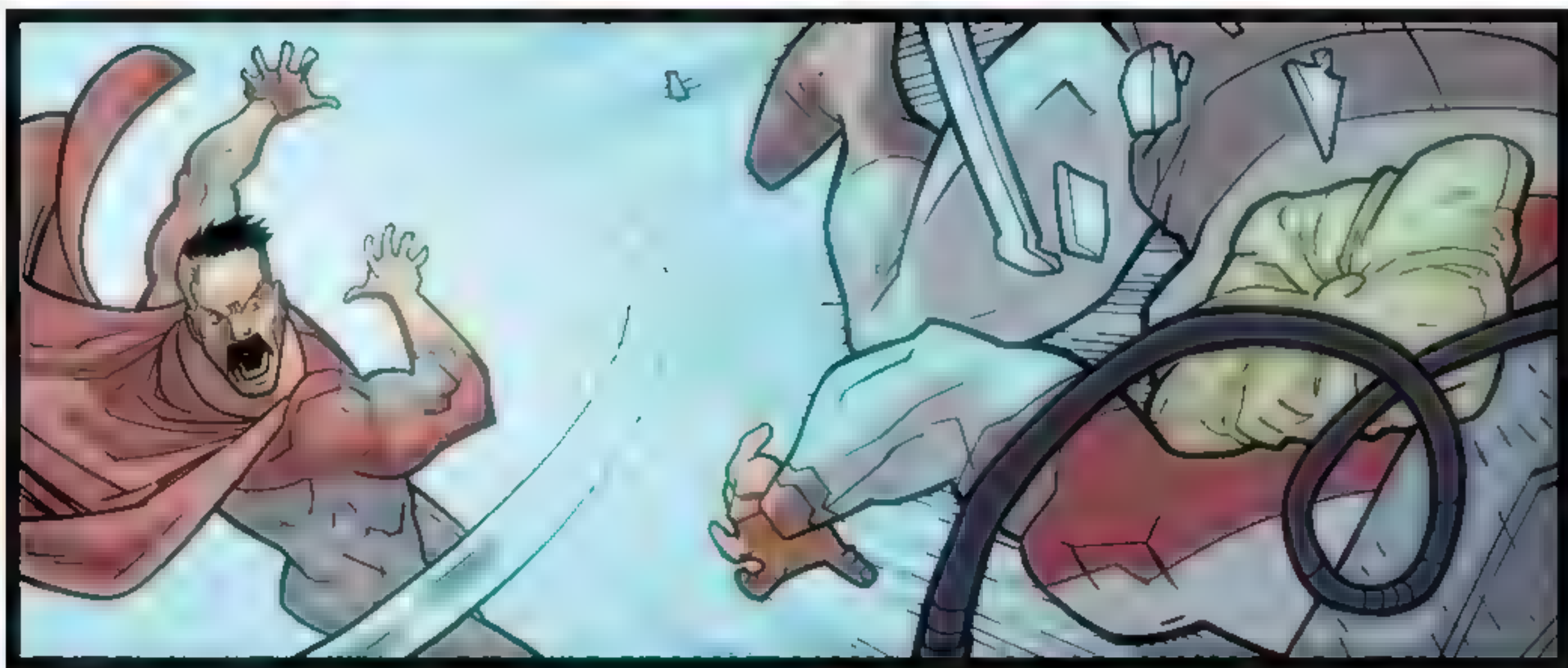


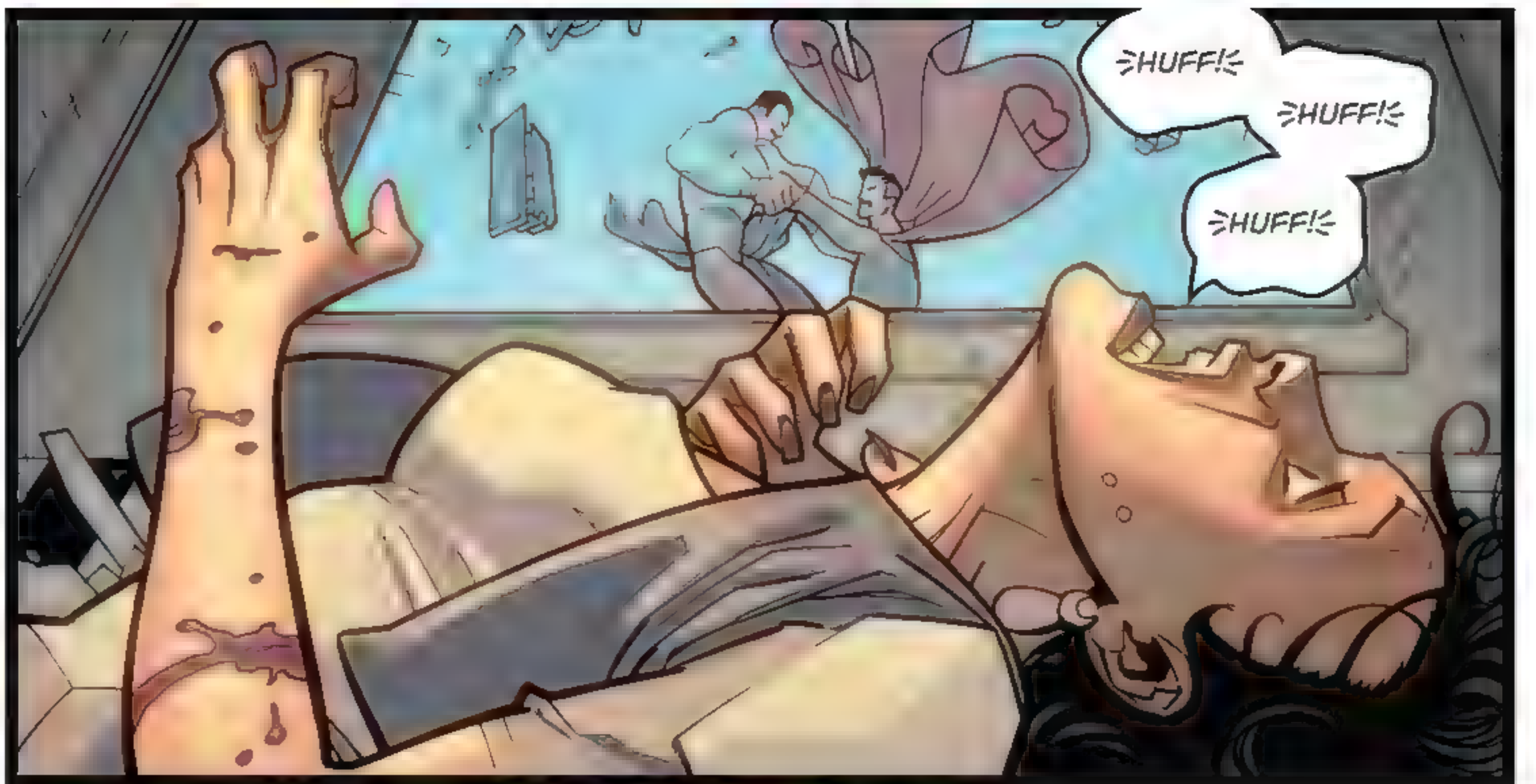
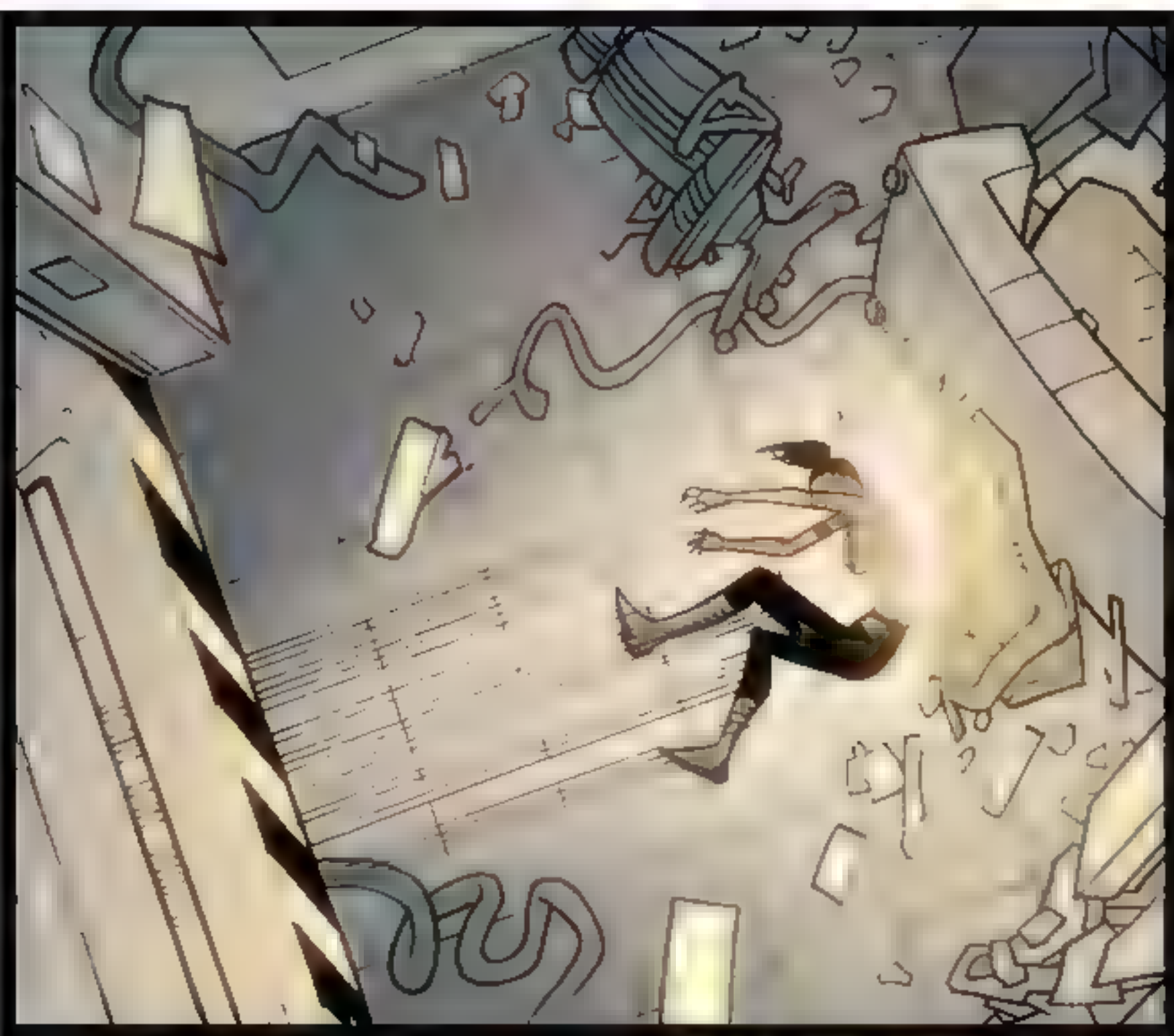
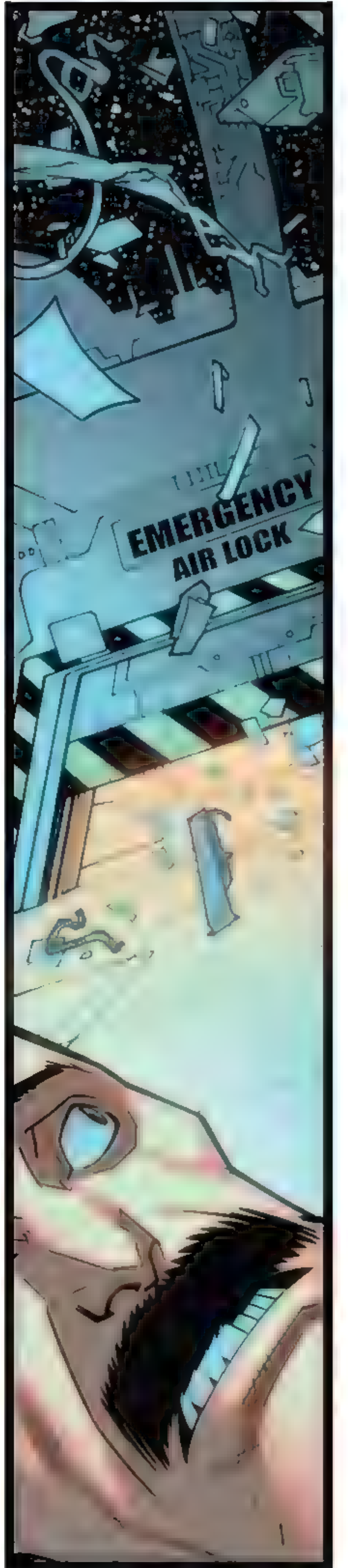
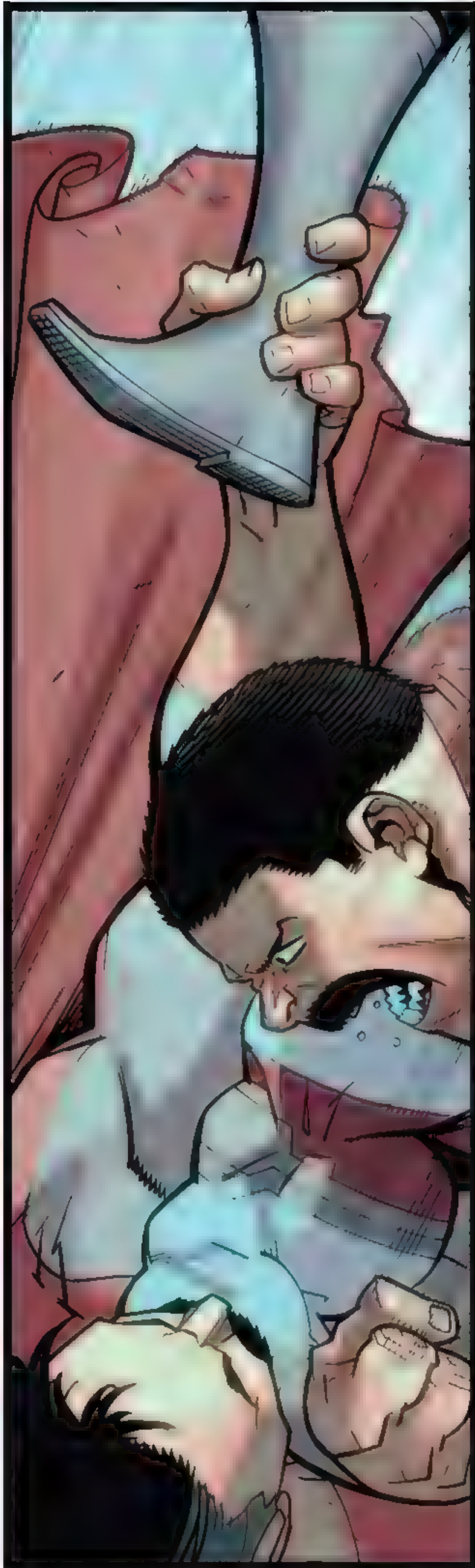


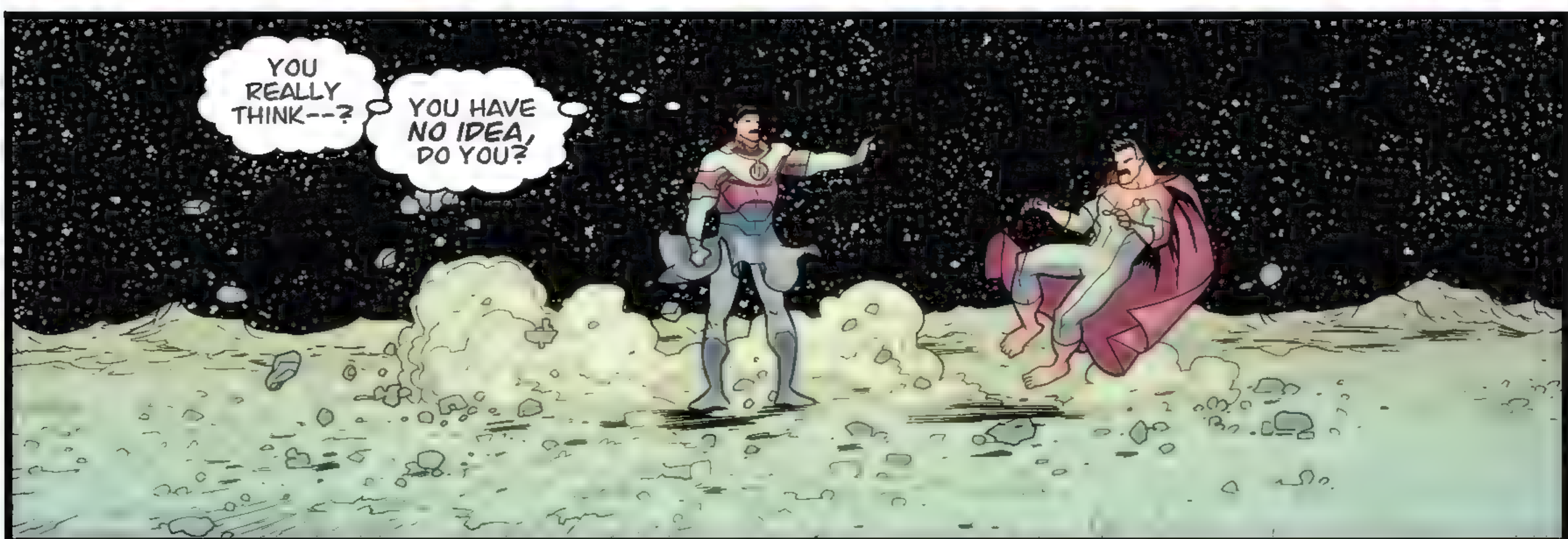
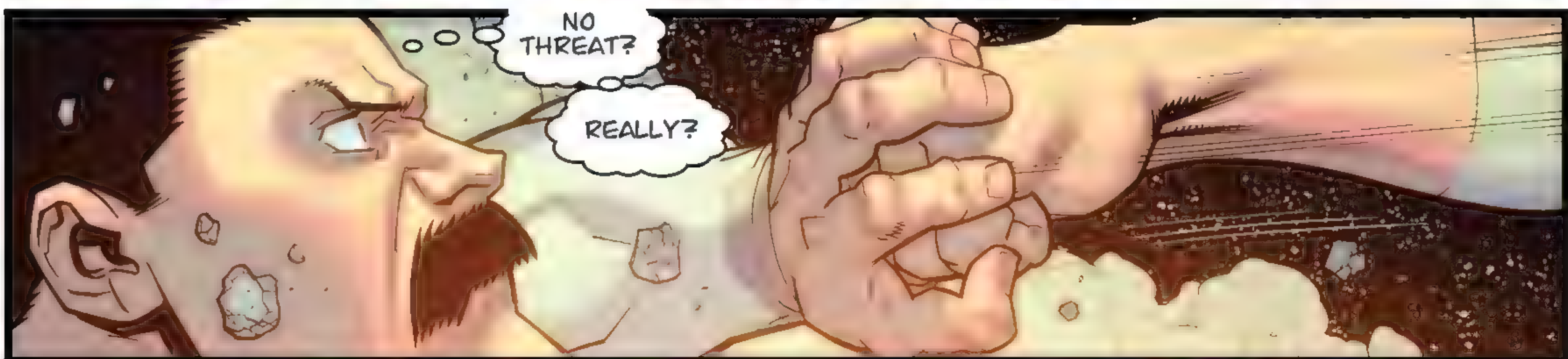
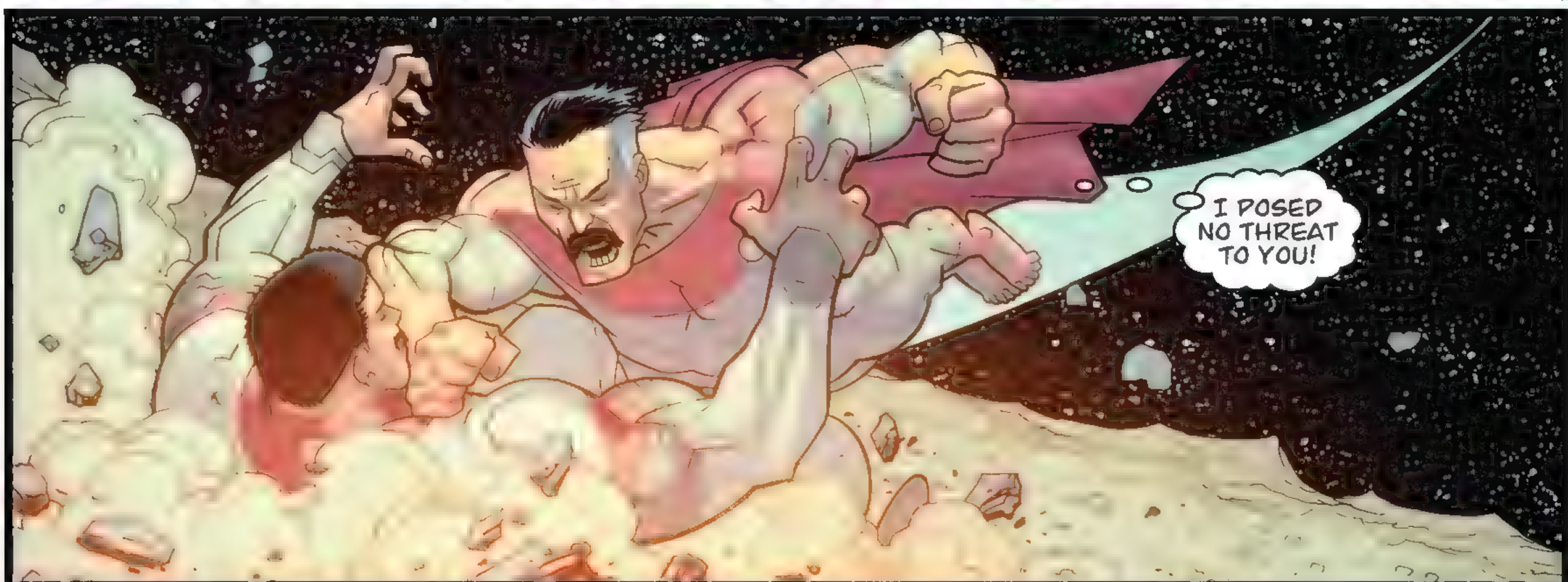
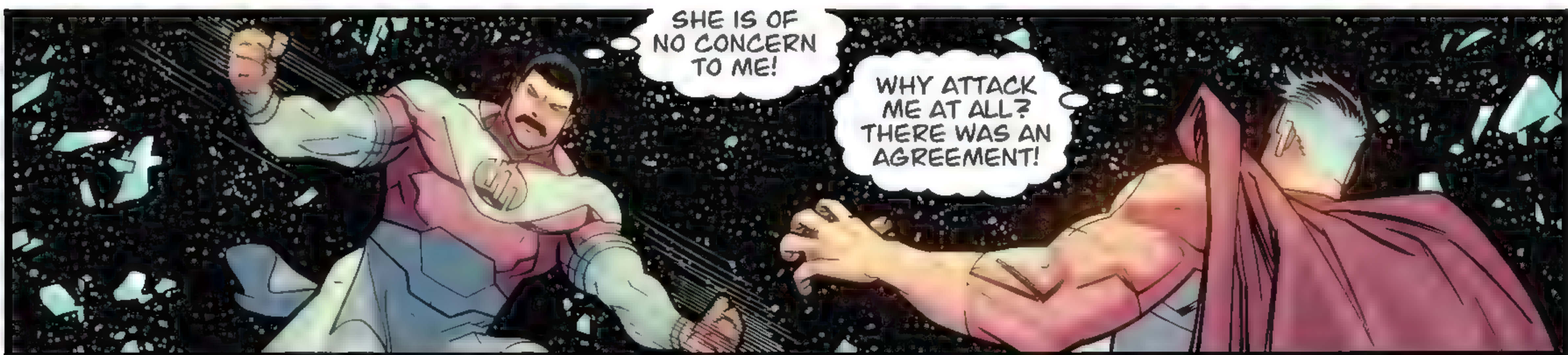
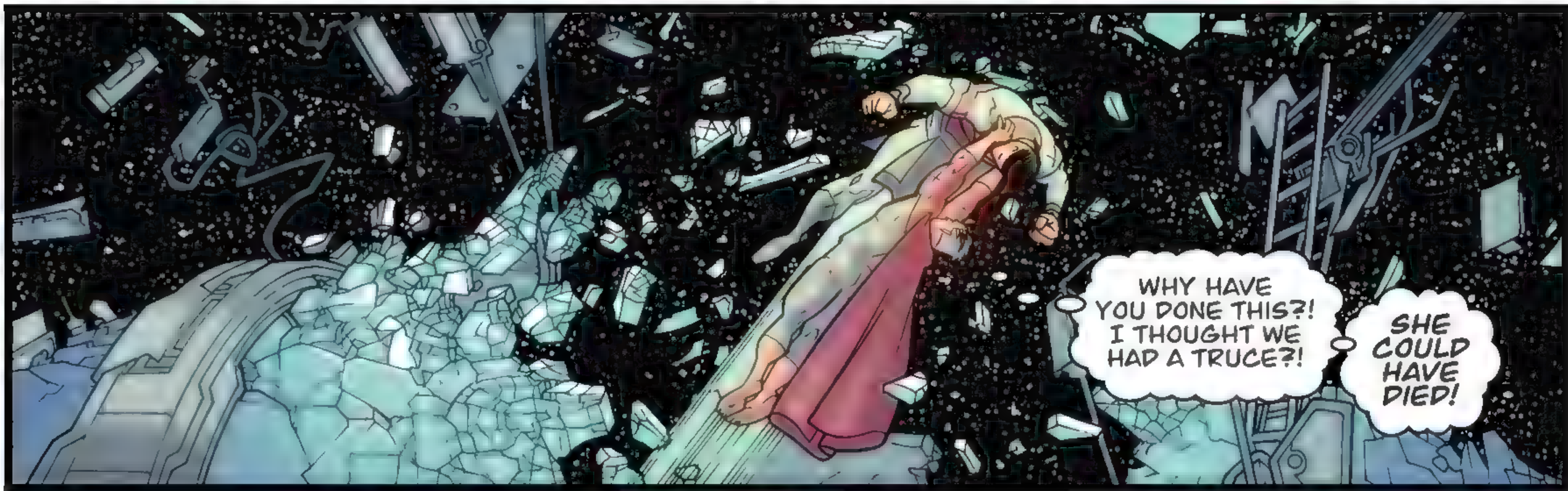
CHAPTER SIX








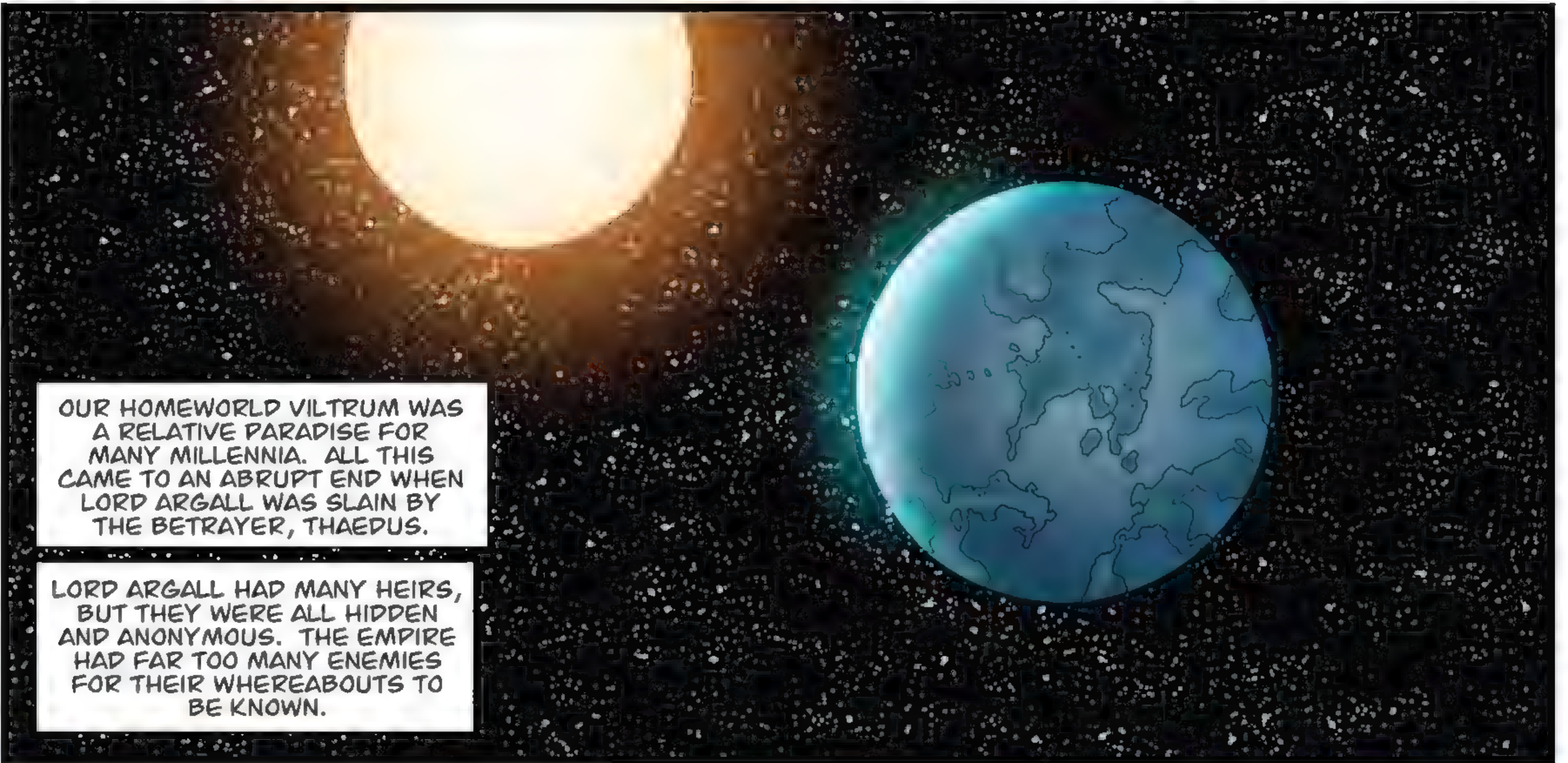






BEFORE YOU
DIE... YOU MIGHT
AS WELL KNOW
THE TRUTH.

LET ME TELL
YOU WHERE YOU
REALLY COME
FROM.



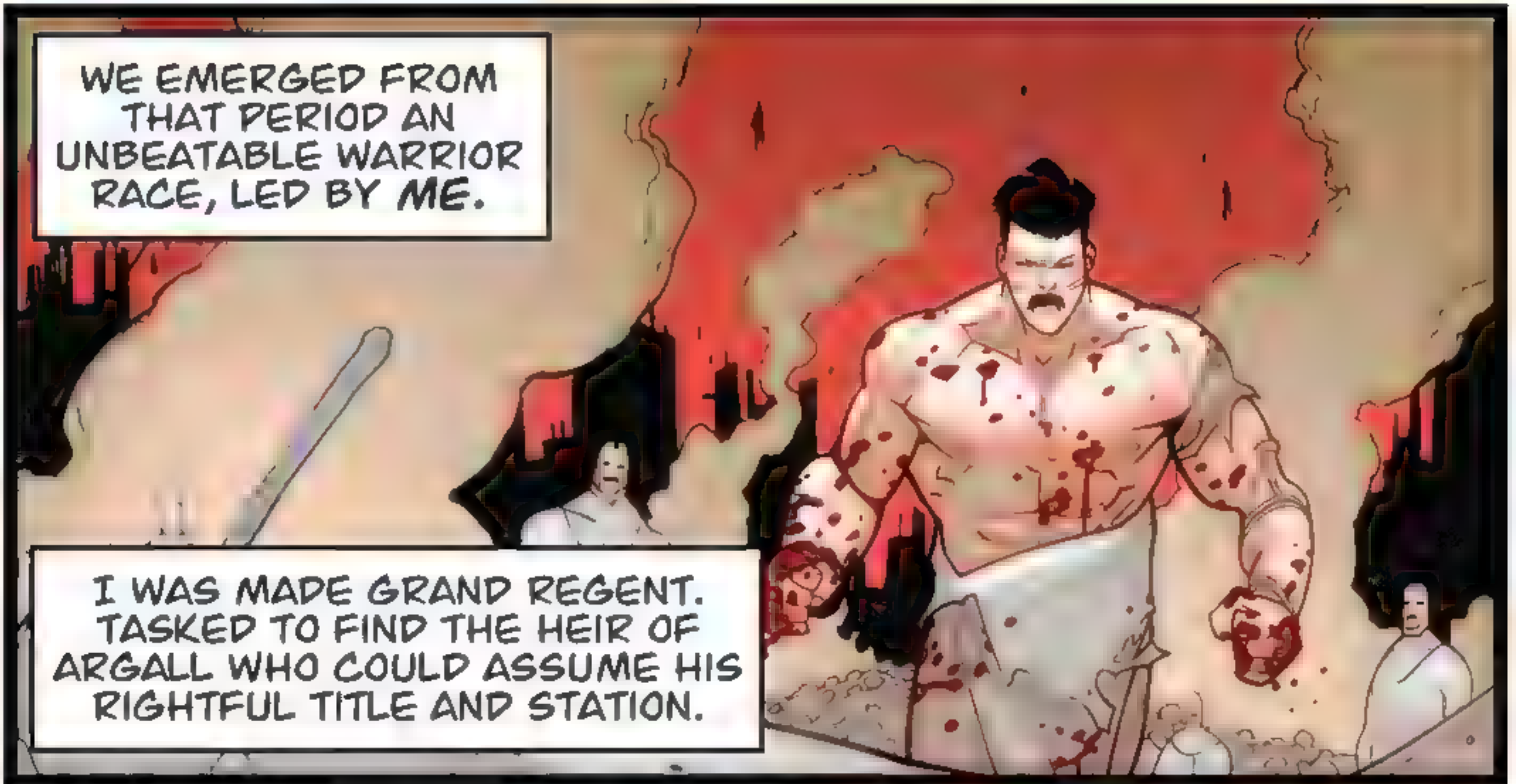
OUR HOMEWORLD VILTRUM WAS A RELATIVE PARADISE FOR MANY MILLENNIA. ALL THIS CAME TO AN ABRUPT END WHEN LORD ARGALL WAS SLAIN BY THE BETRAYER, THAEDUS.

LORD ARGALL HAD MANY HEIRS, BUT THEY WERE ALL HIDDEN AND ANONYMOUS. THE EMPIRE HAD FAR TOO MANY ENEMIES FOR THEIR WHEREABOUTS TO BE KNOWN.



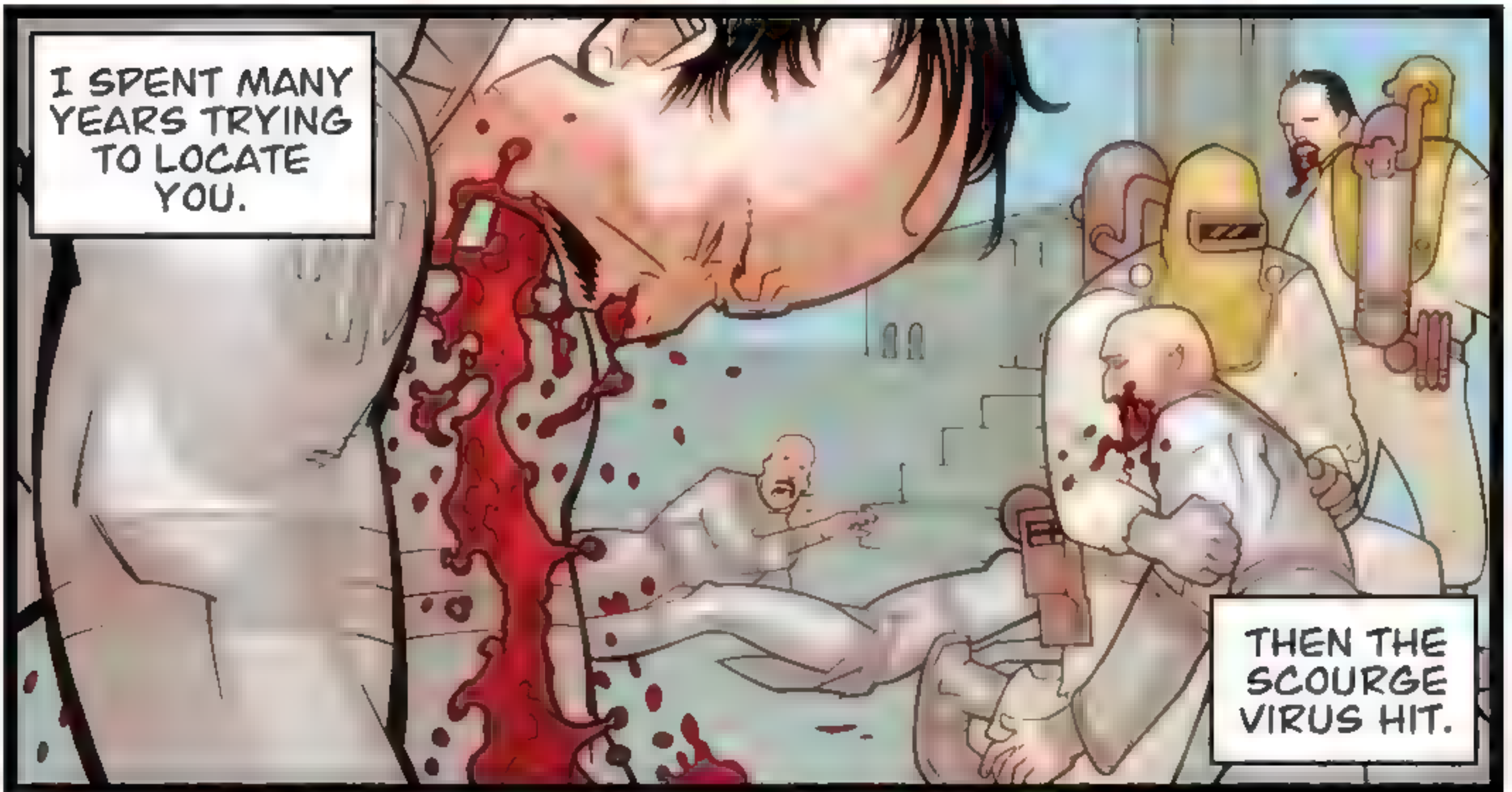
IN THE CHAOS FOLLOWING ARGALL'S DEATH, THE HEIRS WERE LOST. EFFORTS WERE MADE TO LOCATE THEM, BUT THE POPULATION HAD DECIDED TO CULL THE WEAK IN AN EFFORT TO FIND A NEW RULER. VIOLENCE ERUPTED ACROSS THE PLANET.

HUNDREDS OF YEARS PASSED... IT WAS A DARK PERIOD OF UNREST.



WE EMERGED FROM THAT PERIOD AN UNBEATABLE WARRIOR RACE, LED BY ME.

I WAS MADE GRAND REGENT. TASKED TO FIND THE HEIR OF ARGALL WHO COULD ASSUME HIS RIGHTFUL TITLE AND STATION.



I SPENT MANY YEARS TRYING TO LOCATE YOU.

THEN THE SCOURGE VIRUS HIT.

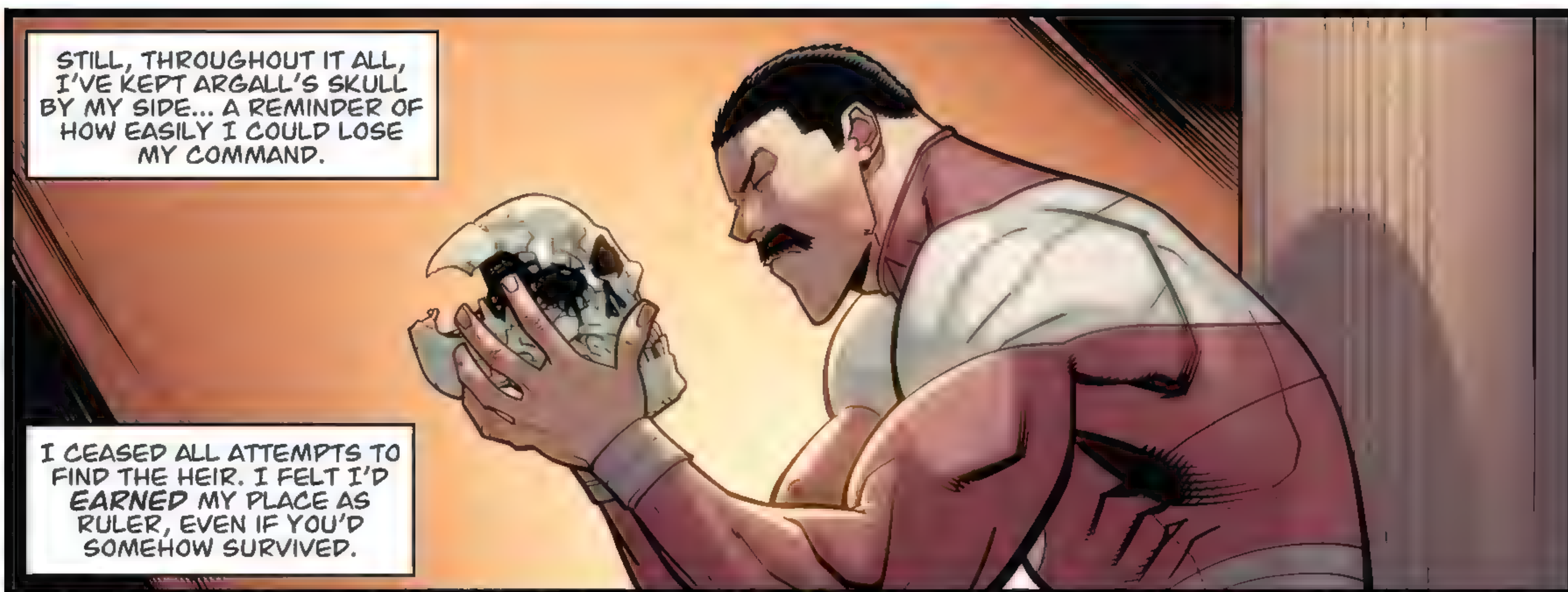


I ASSUMED THE HEIR HAD BEEN LOST TO THE VIRUS.



I LED MY PEOPLE THROUGH THESE DARK TIMES. I HELPED US TOGETHER.

I'VE MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR OUR PEOPLE TO SURVIVE. I WAS A BETTER RULER THAN EVEN ARGALL HIMSELF.



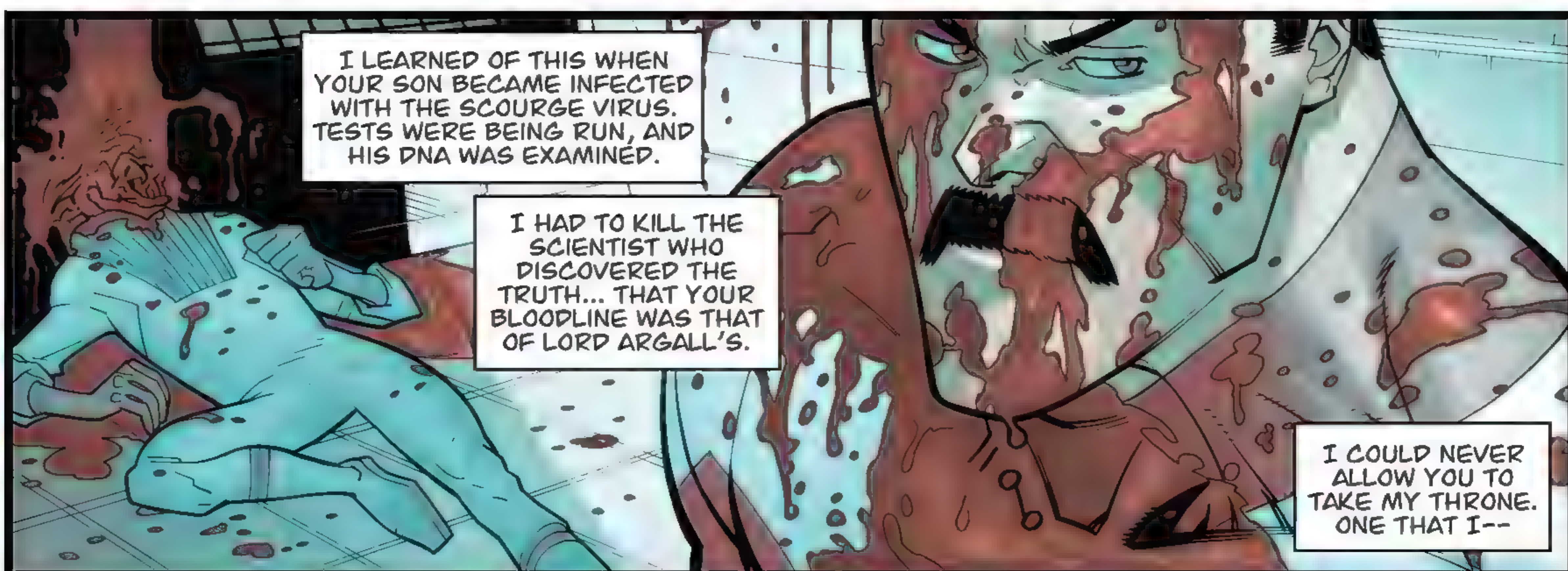
STILL, THROUGHOUT IT ALL, I'VE KEPT ARGALL'S SKULL BY MY SIDE... A REMINDER OF HOW EASILY I COULD LOSE MY COMMAND.

I CEASED ALL ATTEMPTS TO FIND THE HEIR. I FELT I'D EARNED MY PLACE AS RULER, EVEN IF YOU'D SOMEHOW SURVIVED.



CAN YOU IMAGINE HOW **DISGUSTED** I WAS TO LEARN THAT YOU, WHO SIDED WITH THE BETRAYER, THAEDUS--WHO **MURDERED** YOUR FATHER, WAS THE RIGHTFUL RULER OF THE VILTRUM EMPIRE?!

YOU, WHO DESTROYED OUR HOME PLANET!



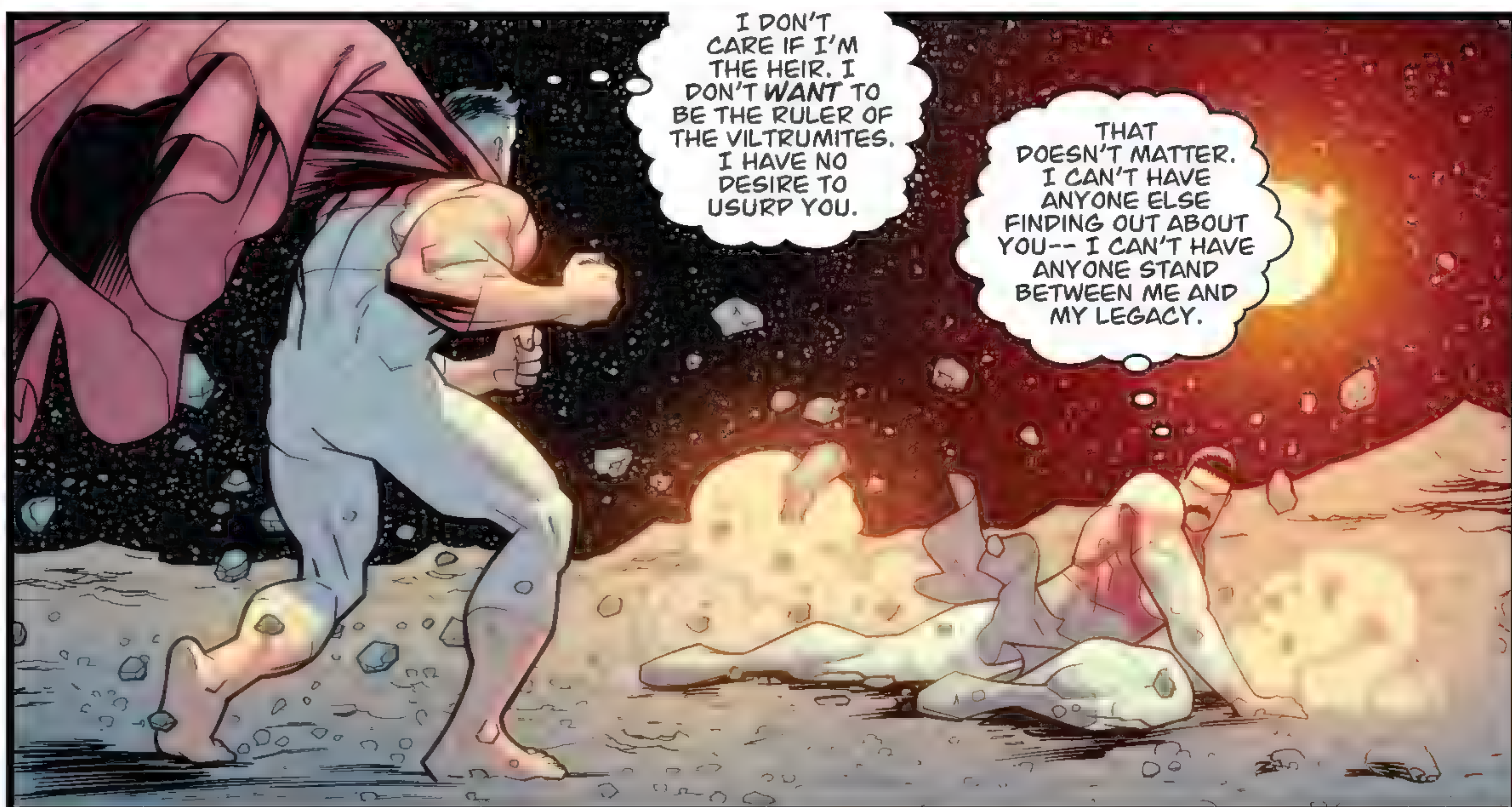
I LEARNED OF THIS WHEN YOUR SON BECAME INFECTED WITH THE SCOURGE VIRUS. TESTS WERE BEING RUN, AND HIS DNA WAS EXAMINED.

I HAD TO KILL THE SCIENTIST WHO DISCOVERED THE TRUTH... THAT YOUR BLOODLINE WAS THAT OF LORD ARGALL'S.

I COULD NEVER ALLOW YOU TO TAKE MY THRONE. ONE THAT I--

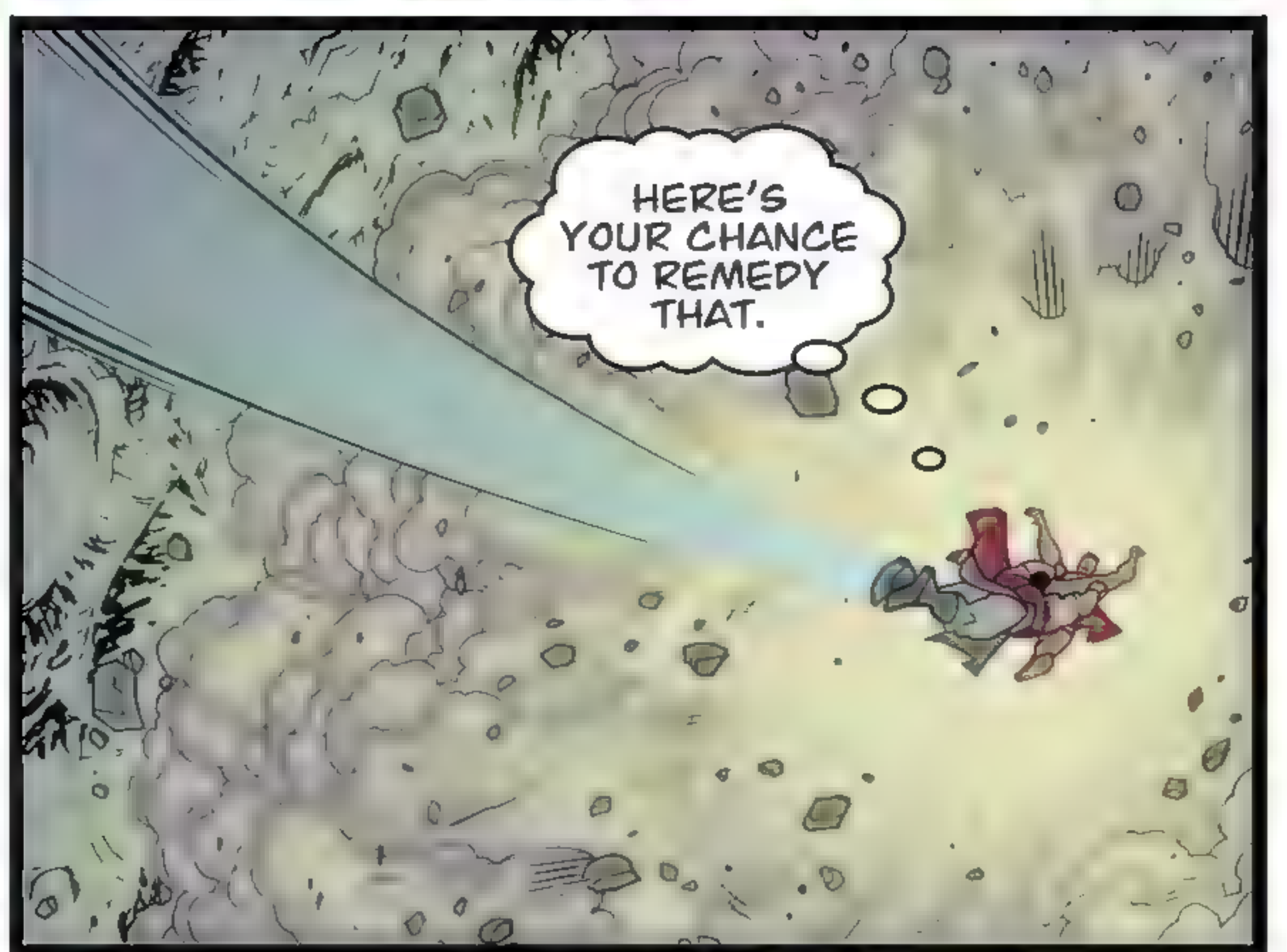
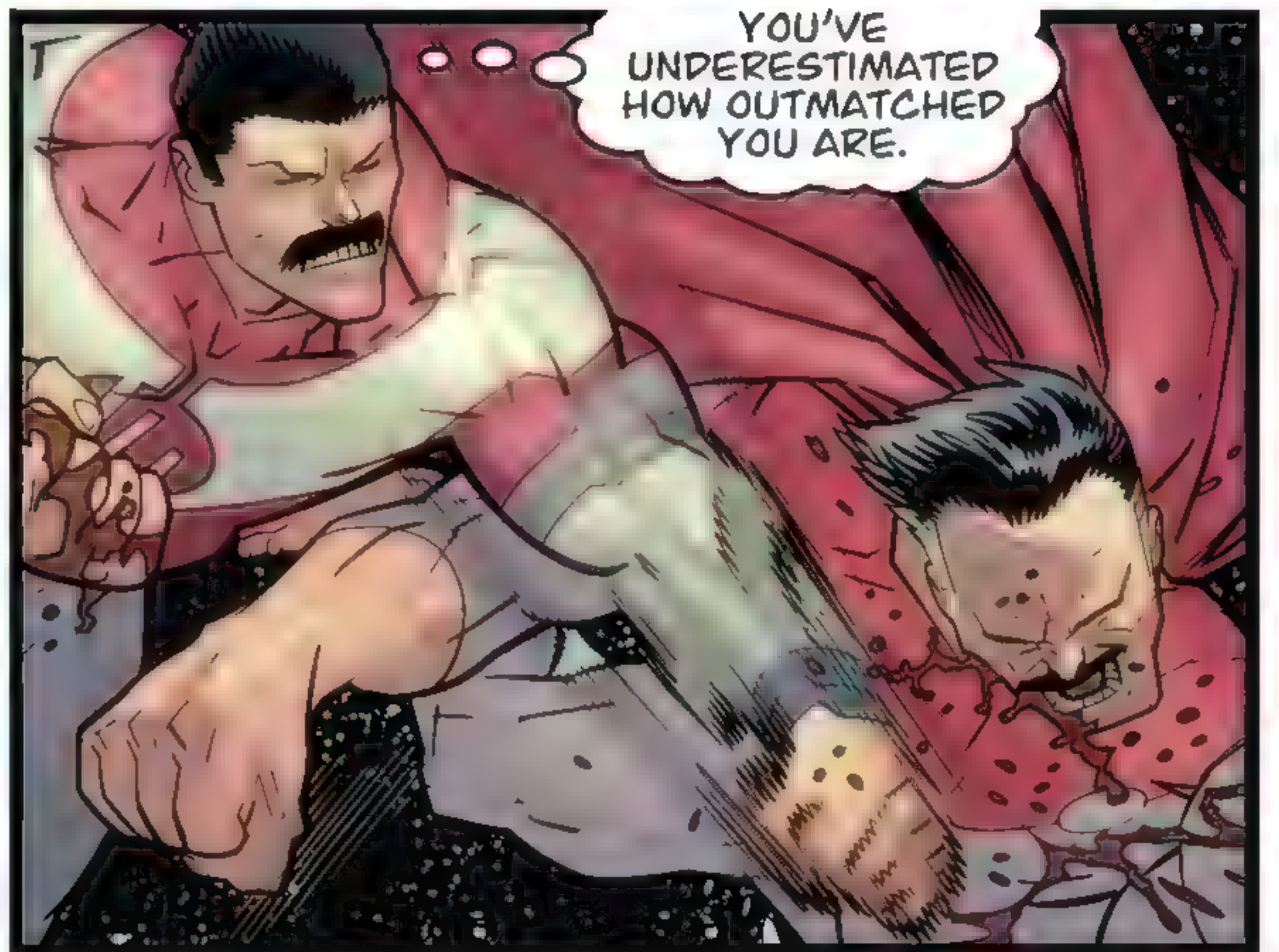


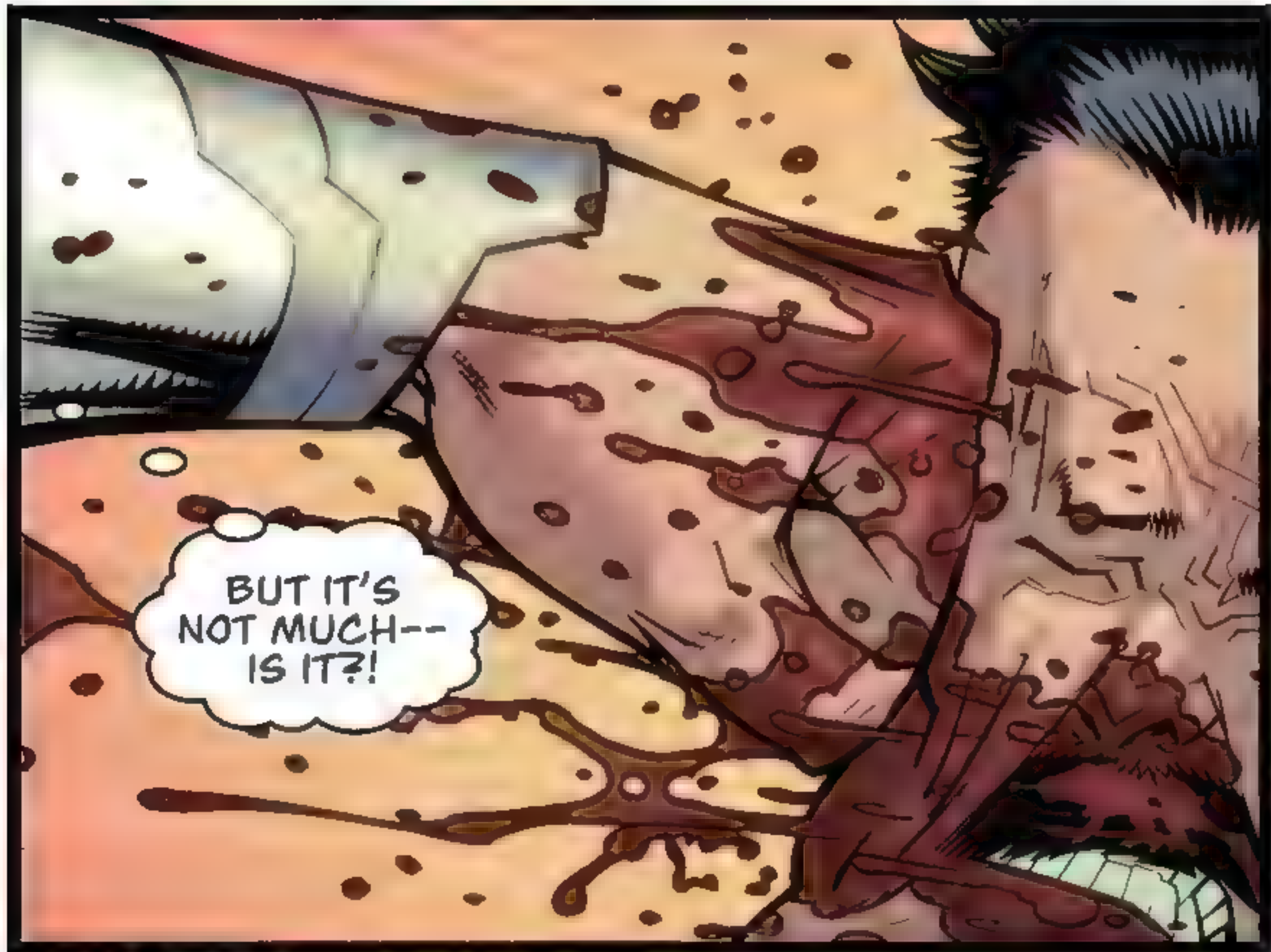
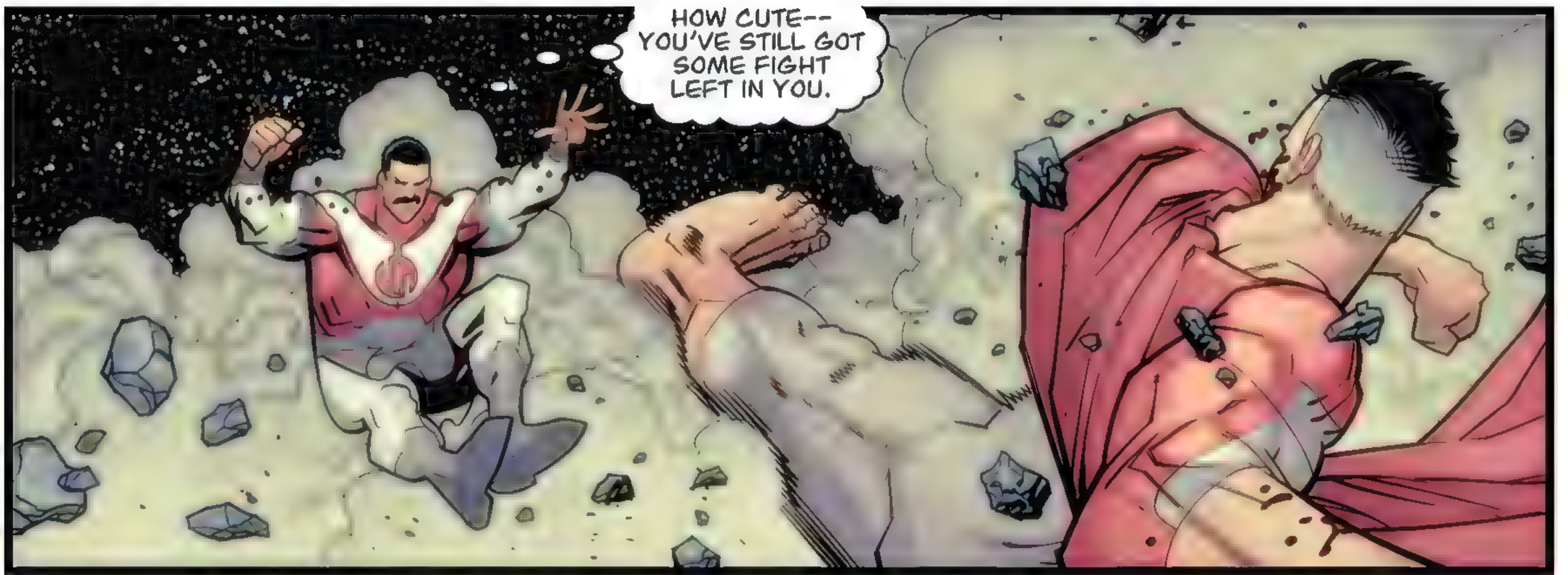
I DON'T CARE!

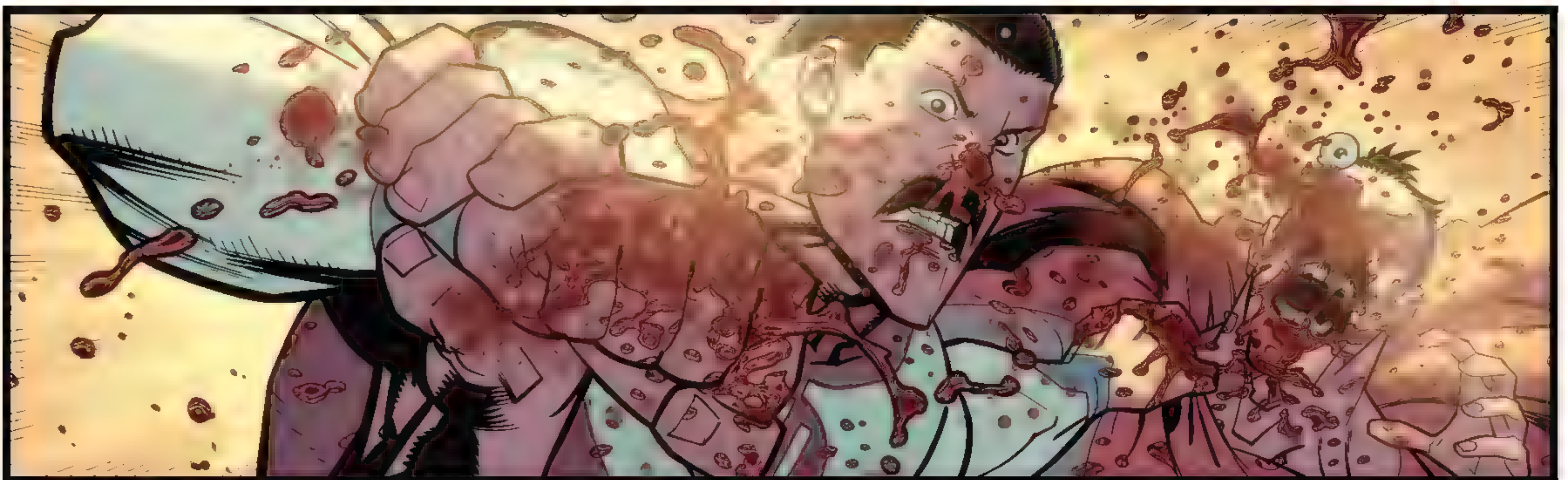
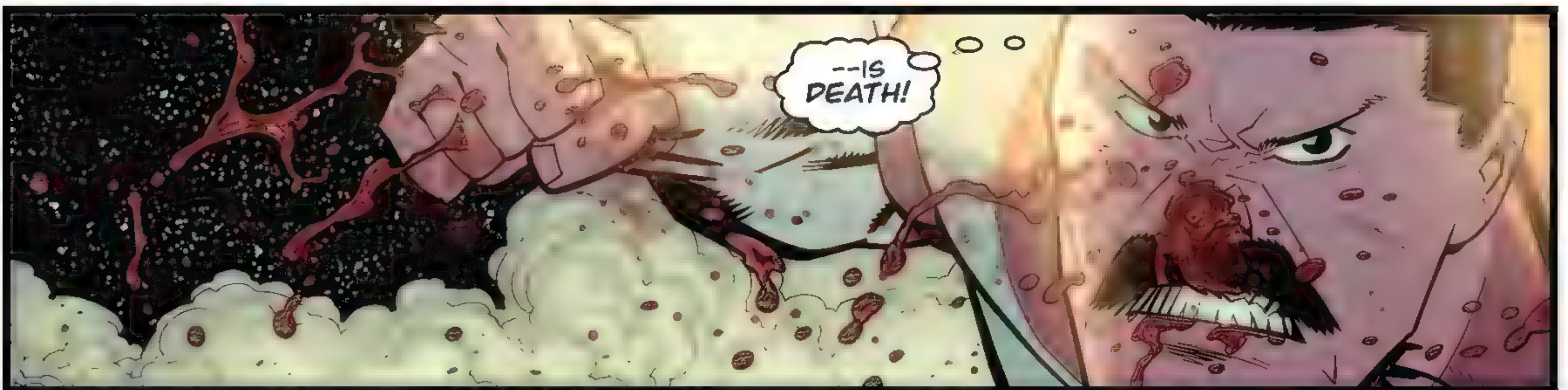
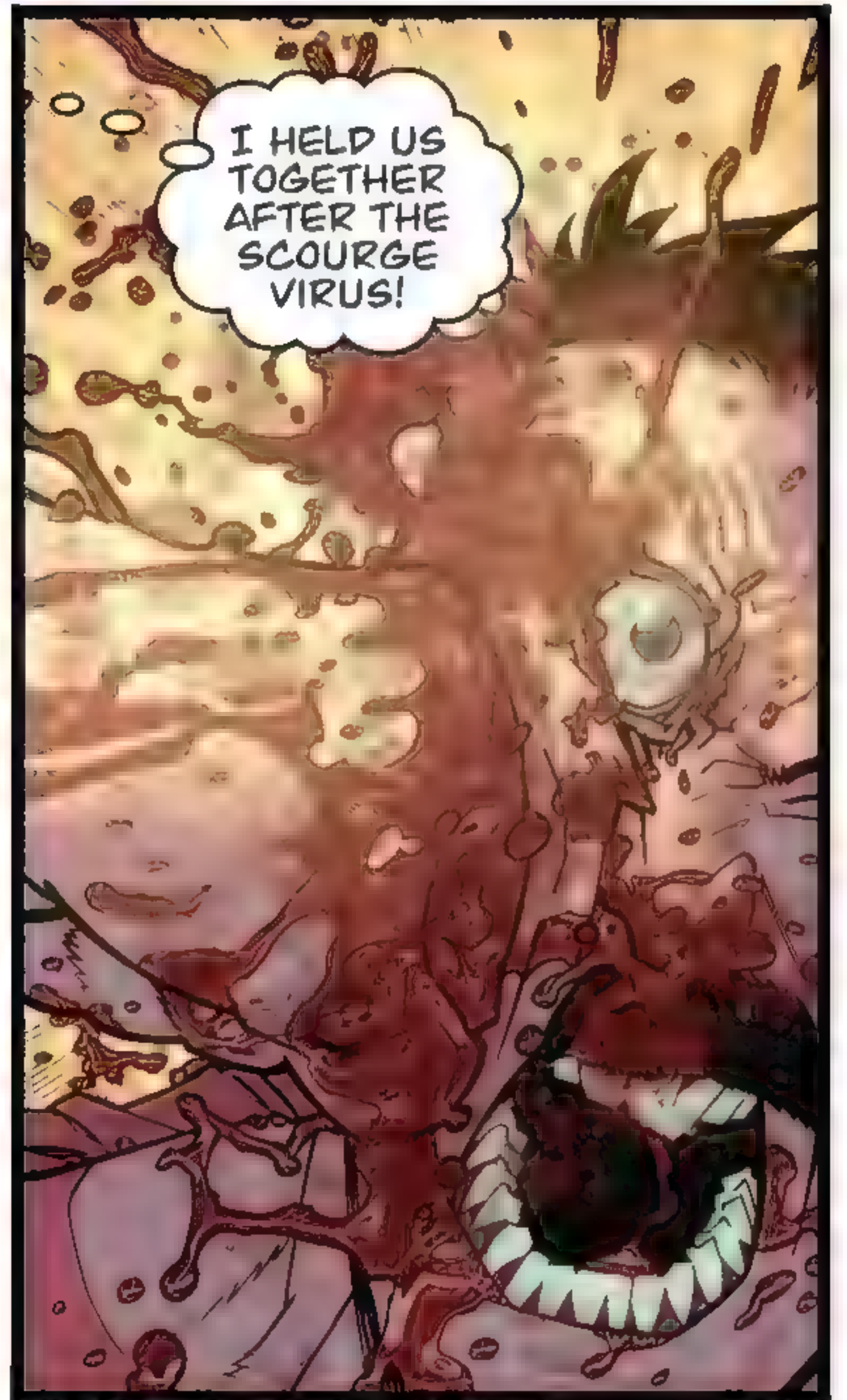


I DON'T CARE IF I'M THE HEIR. I DON'T WANT TO BE THE RULER OF THE VILTRUMITES. I HAVE NO DESIRE TO USURP YOU.

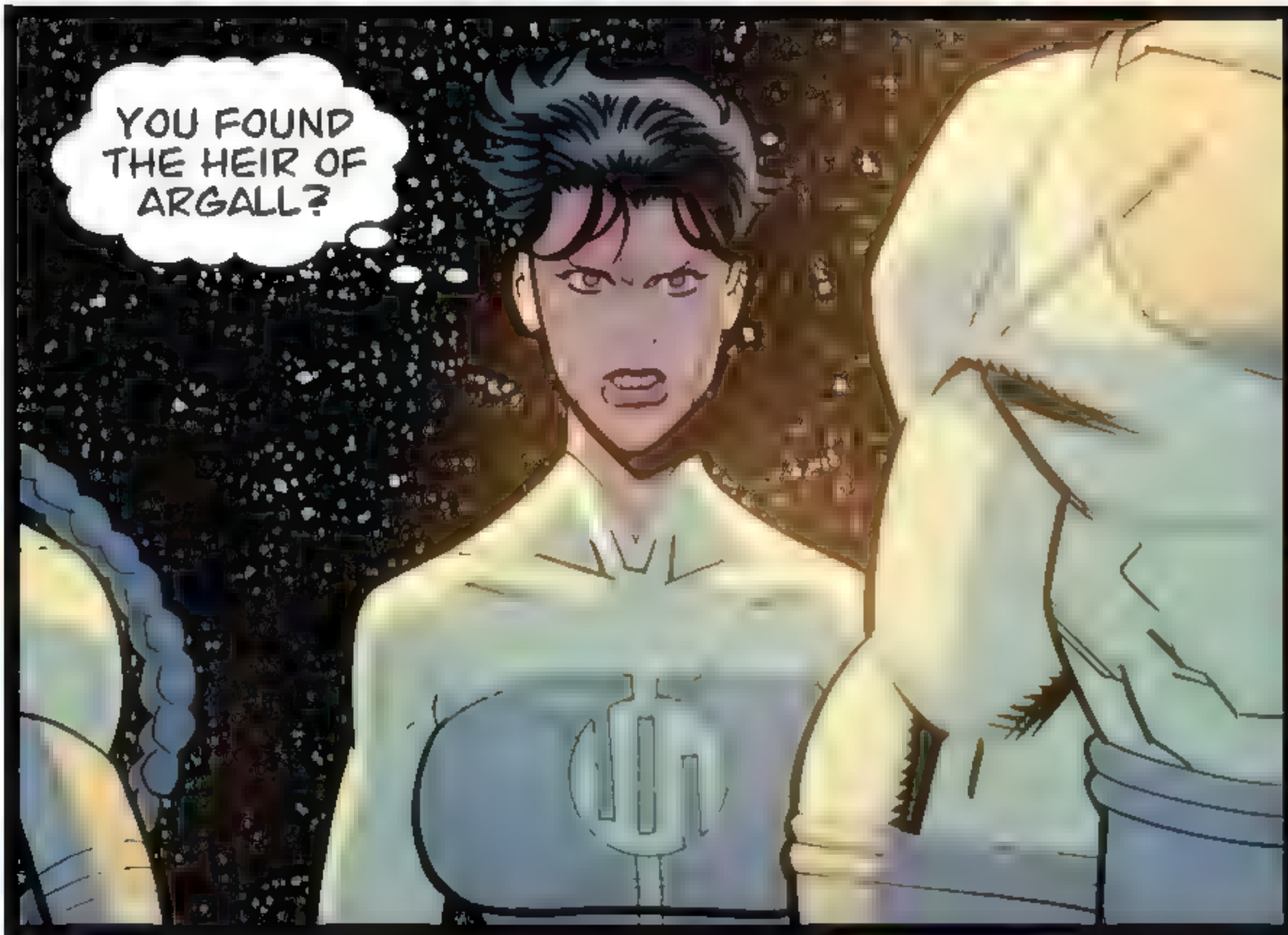
THAT DOESN'T MATTER. I CAN'T HAVE ANYONE ELSE FINDING OUT ABOUT YOU-- I CAN'T HAVE ANYONE STAND BETWEEN ME AND MY LEGACY.











YOU FOUND THE HEIR OF ARGALL?



AND HE IS WEAK!
LOOK AT HIM
BEFORE YOU! HE
IS NOT WORTHY
OF--



IT WAS NEVER ARGALL'S
STRENGTH WE FOLLOWED!
IT WAS HIS WISDOM!

THAT YOU DON'T
UNDERSTAND THAT
SHOWS HOW FOOLISH
WE WERE TO EVER
FOLLOW YOU!



YOU WILL DIE FOR
THIS BETRAYAL! I
CALL FOR THE RITE
OF EXECUTION!

NO!



LET HIM
LIVE.





THE LAST REMAINING VILTRUMITE WARSHIP, STATIONED ON THE MOON.



YOU WILL FORGIVE ME IF I MAKE THIS SOMEWHAT BRIEF.

WE ARE ALL RECEIVING A STARTLING BIT OF NEWS THIS DAY. WE'VE LEARNED THAT THE HEIR OF ARGALL HAS BEEN FOUND... AND THAT I AM THAT HEIR.

IT WAS NEVER MY DESIRE TO LEAD, BUT WHO AM I TO DENY MY BIRTHRIGHT? I'VE NEVER SKIRTED RESPONSIBILITY AND I'M NOT ABOUT TO START DOING THAT NOW.

I STAND BEFORE YOU NOW, EMPEROR NOLAN, RULER OF THE VILTRUM EMPIRE.

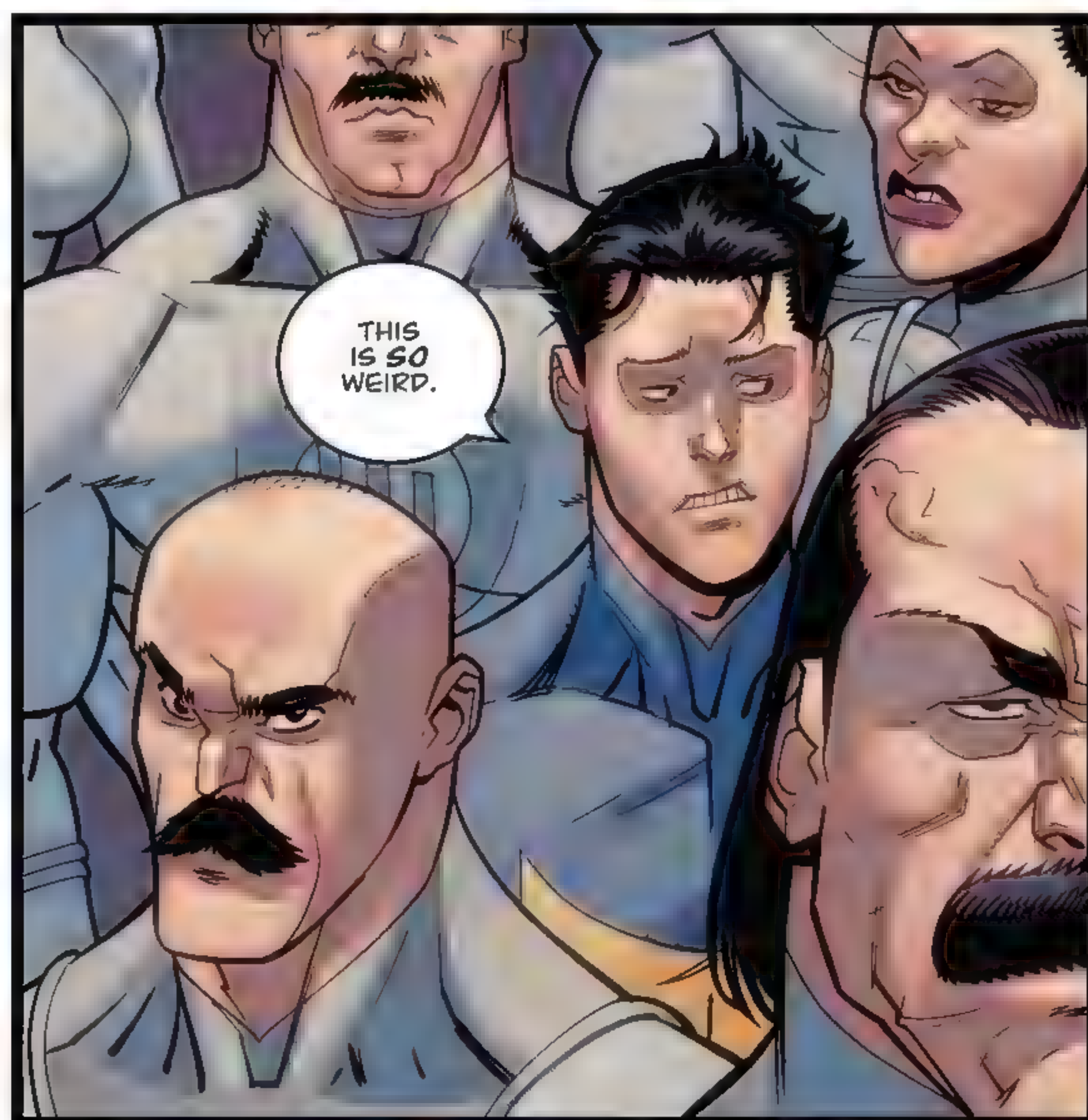
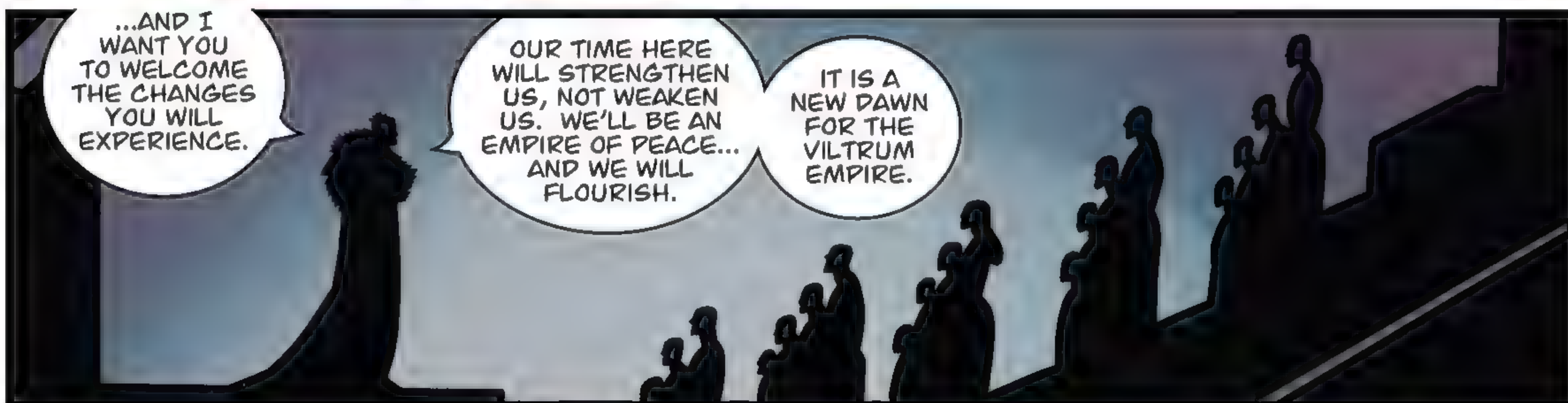


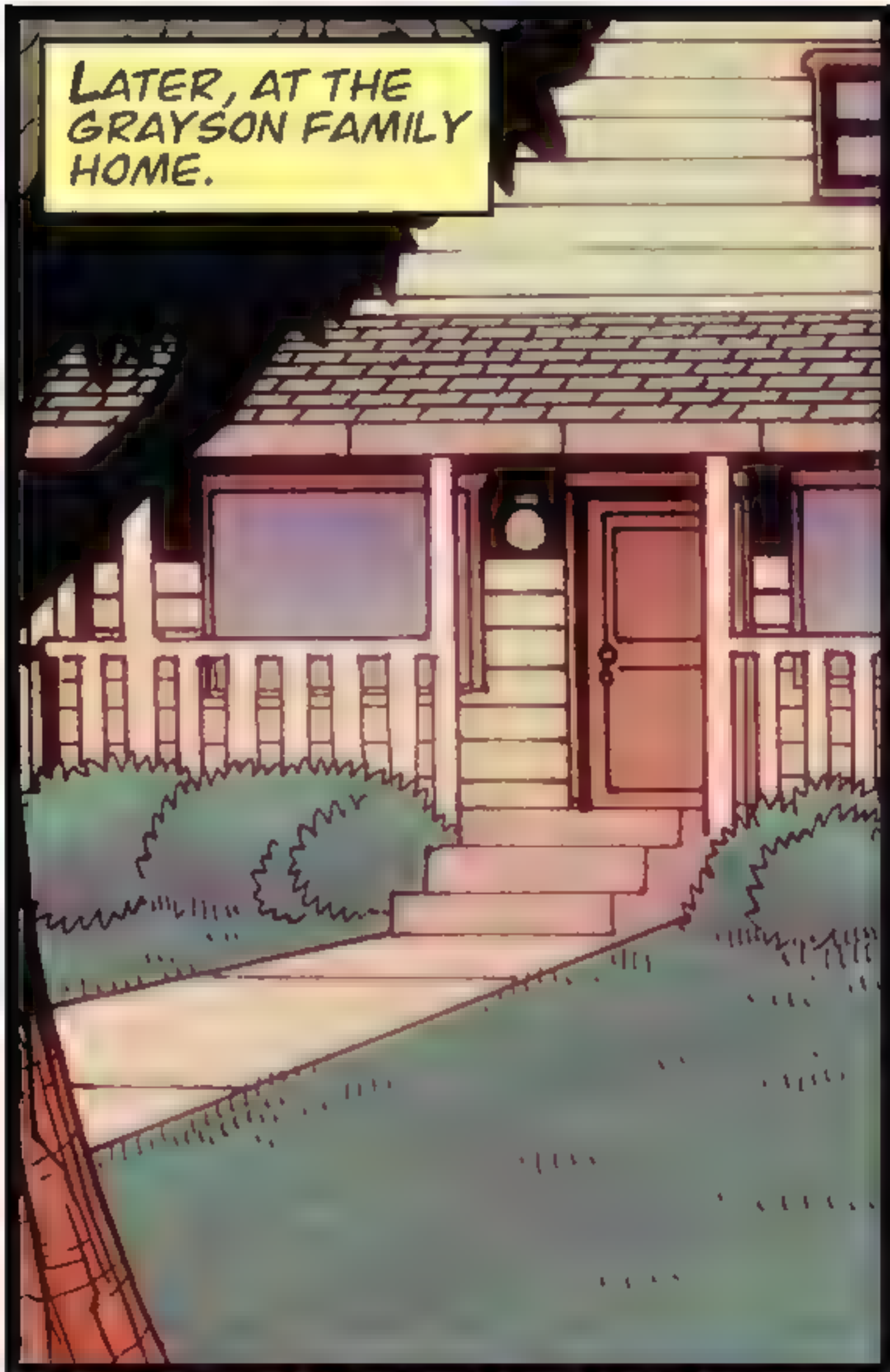
SOME OF YOU KNOW ME TO BE A TRAITOR... AN ENEMY OF THE EMPIRE. I SEE THINGS A DIFFERENT WAY AND I EXPECT YOU TO NOW DO THE SAME.

FOR TOO LONG OUR EMPIRE HAS EXPANDED OUTWARD, FOCUSING ON THIS EXPANSION... AND THE DOMINATION OF OTHER WORLDS.

ALL THE WHILE, WE AS A PEOPLE... HAVE BEEN WITHERING.







LATER, AT THE GRAYSON FAMILY HOME.



I THINK WE'LL HAVE PLENTY OF TIME TO TALK ABOUT THIS LATER... FOR NOW, I'LL JUST LEAVE YOU TWO ALONE.

YEAH... UH... I'M A LITTLE SPENT. THANKS FOR TAKING ME UP THERE.



YOU OKAY WITH THIS?



ME? YEAH. MY DAD'S IN CHARGE. THAT'S GREAT... I GUESS. IF I HAD TO PICK A GOOD LEADER TO KEEP THE VILTRUMITES IN CHECK... WHO BETTER, RIGHT?

IT'S JUST... WEIRD.

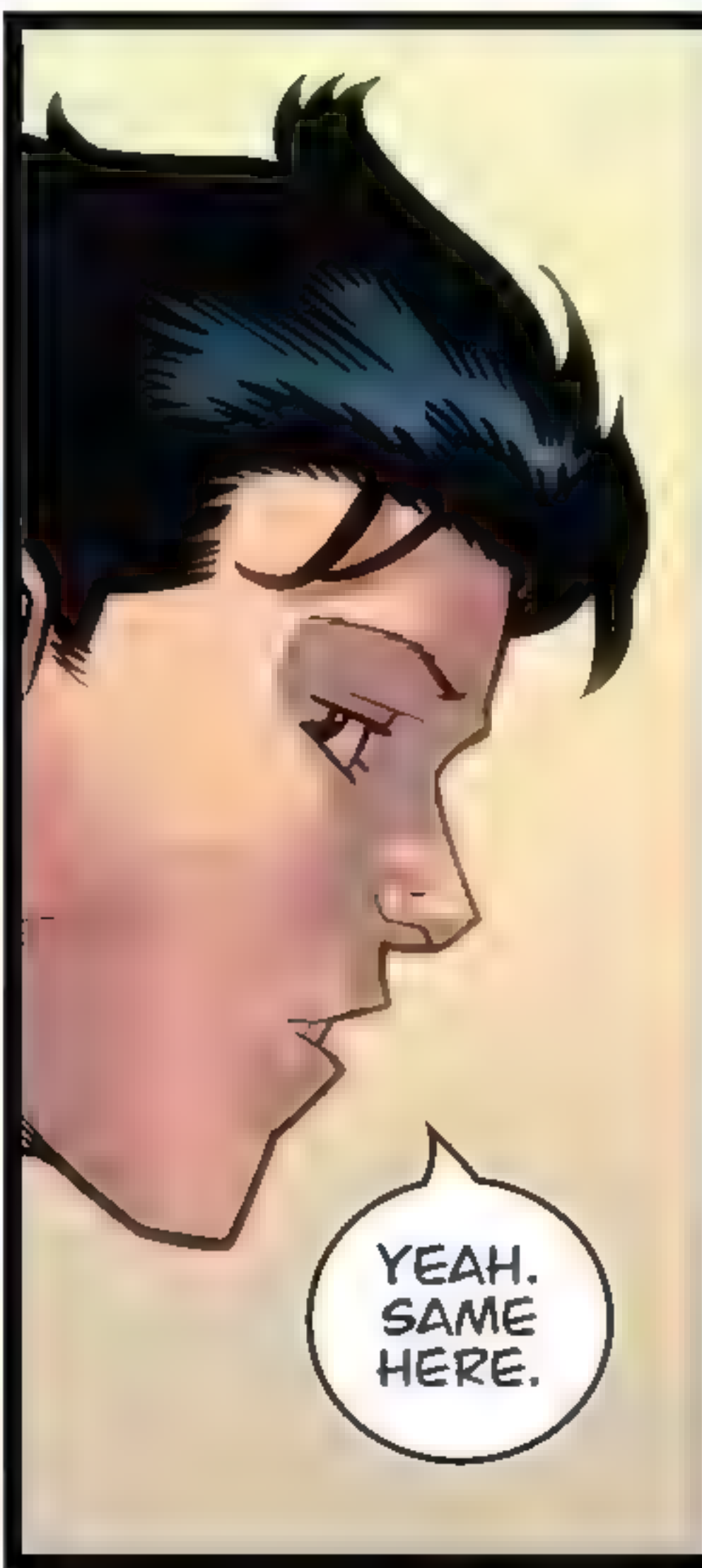
I DIDN'T EVEN GET TO TALK TO HIM WHILE I WAS UP THERE. HE WAS USHERED OFF TO SOME HEALING CHAMBER BY VILTRUMTIES WHO ALMOST KILLED BOTH OF US NOT SO LONG AGO...



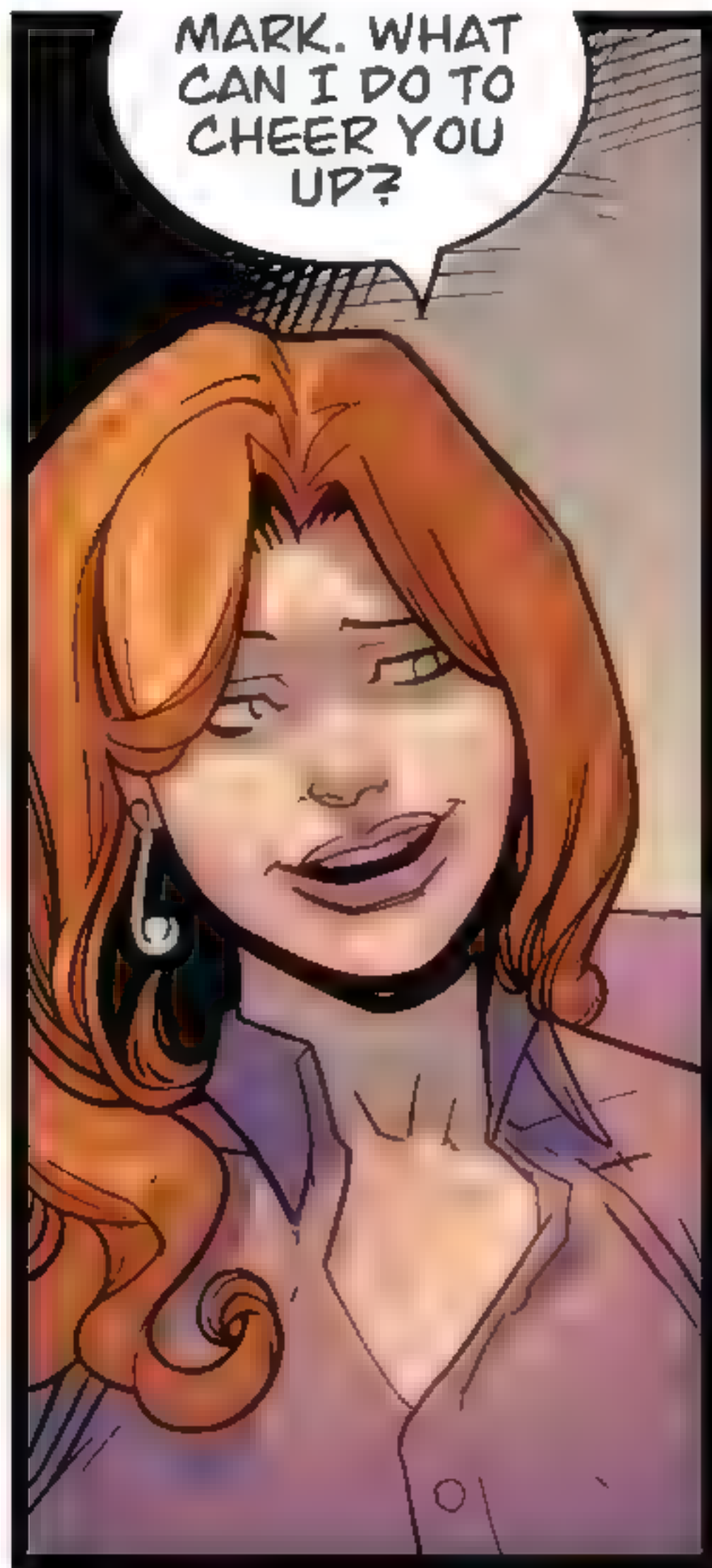
PART OF ME IS THINKING... IS HE AN EVIL GENIUS? WAS THIS ALL PART OF HIS PLAN? WAS HE BIDDING HIS TIME UNTIL TAKING OVER... LEADING ME ALONG EVER SINCE HE TRIED TO TAKE OVER EARTH?

THAT'S ALMOST TOO SCARY TO CONSIDER.

I COULDN'T SEE THAT... NOT AFTER THE TIME I'VE SPENT WITH HIM.



YEAH. SAME HERE.



MARK. WHAT CAN I DO TO CHEER YOU UP?



I'M FINE, REALLY. I'M NOT SAD, OR UPSET... JUST... OVERWHELMED. IT'S JUST... IT'S A LOT TO TAKE IN.

SO MUCH IS CHANGING, SO FAST. IT'S JUST TOO MUCH. IT'S HARD TO KEEP TRACK OF.

SOMETIMES WHEN I THINK ABOUT HOW... DIFFERENT THINGS ARE...

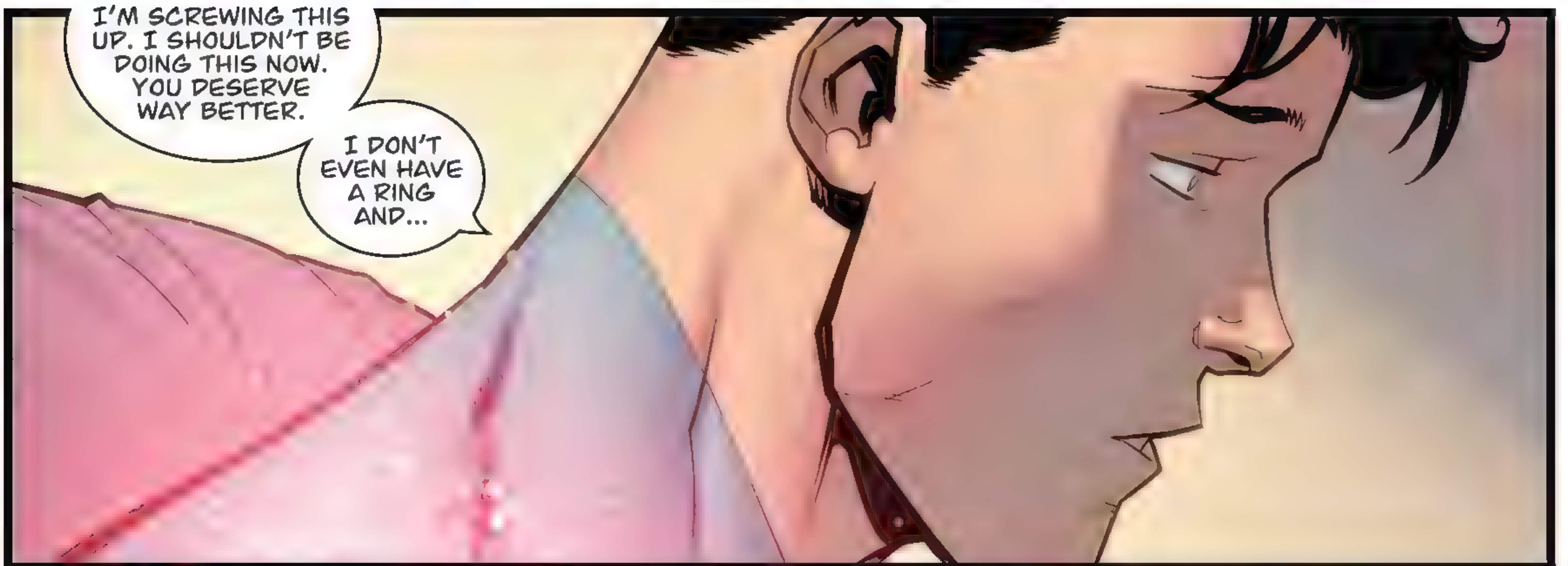


I KNOW THINGS WILL NEVER GO BACK TO HOW THEY WERE... BUT SOMETIMES, I JUST THINK... CAN'T I GO BACK TO HIGH SCHOOL? WHEN MY DAD WAS JUST MY DAD... BEFORE I EVEN HAD POWERS. BUT THEN I REALIZE... THAT WAS BEFORE I MET YOU.

YOU'RE THE ONE CONSTANT IN MY LIFE, EVE. THE THING I KNOW WILL ALWAYS BE THERE... AT LEAST... I WANT YOU TO ALWAYS BE THERE.

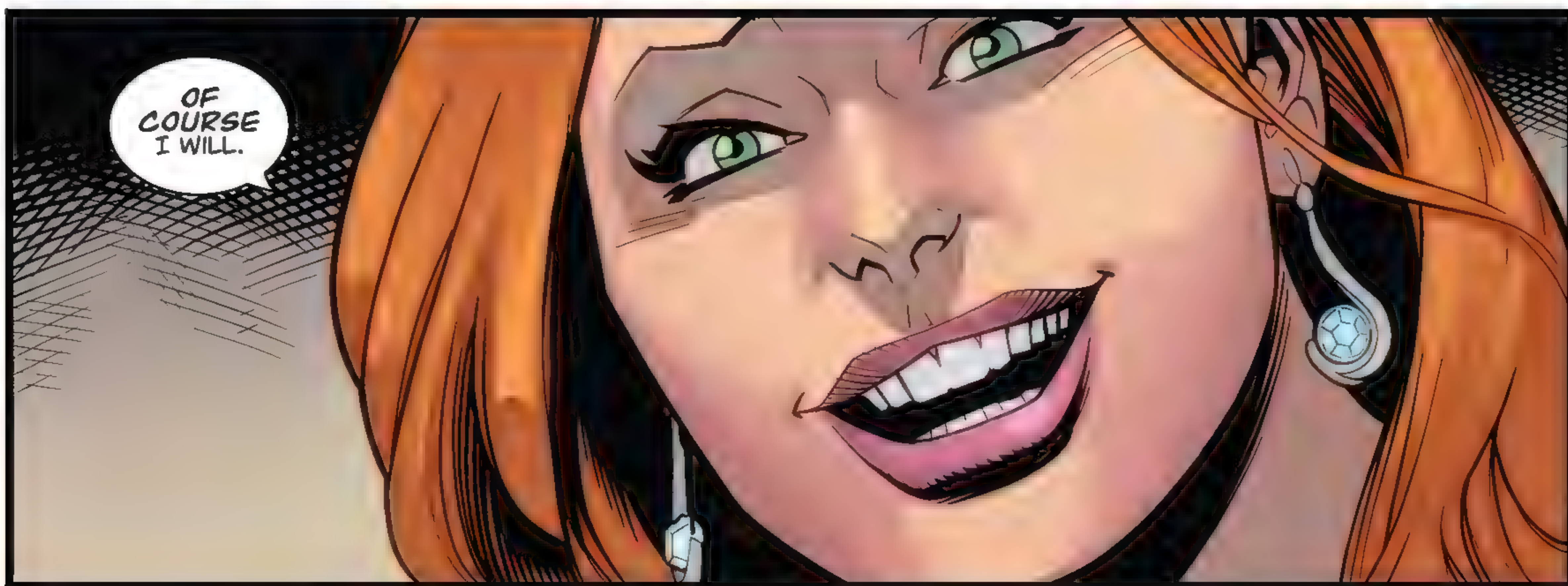


MARK?



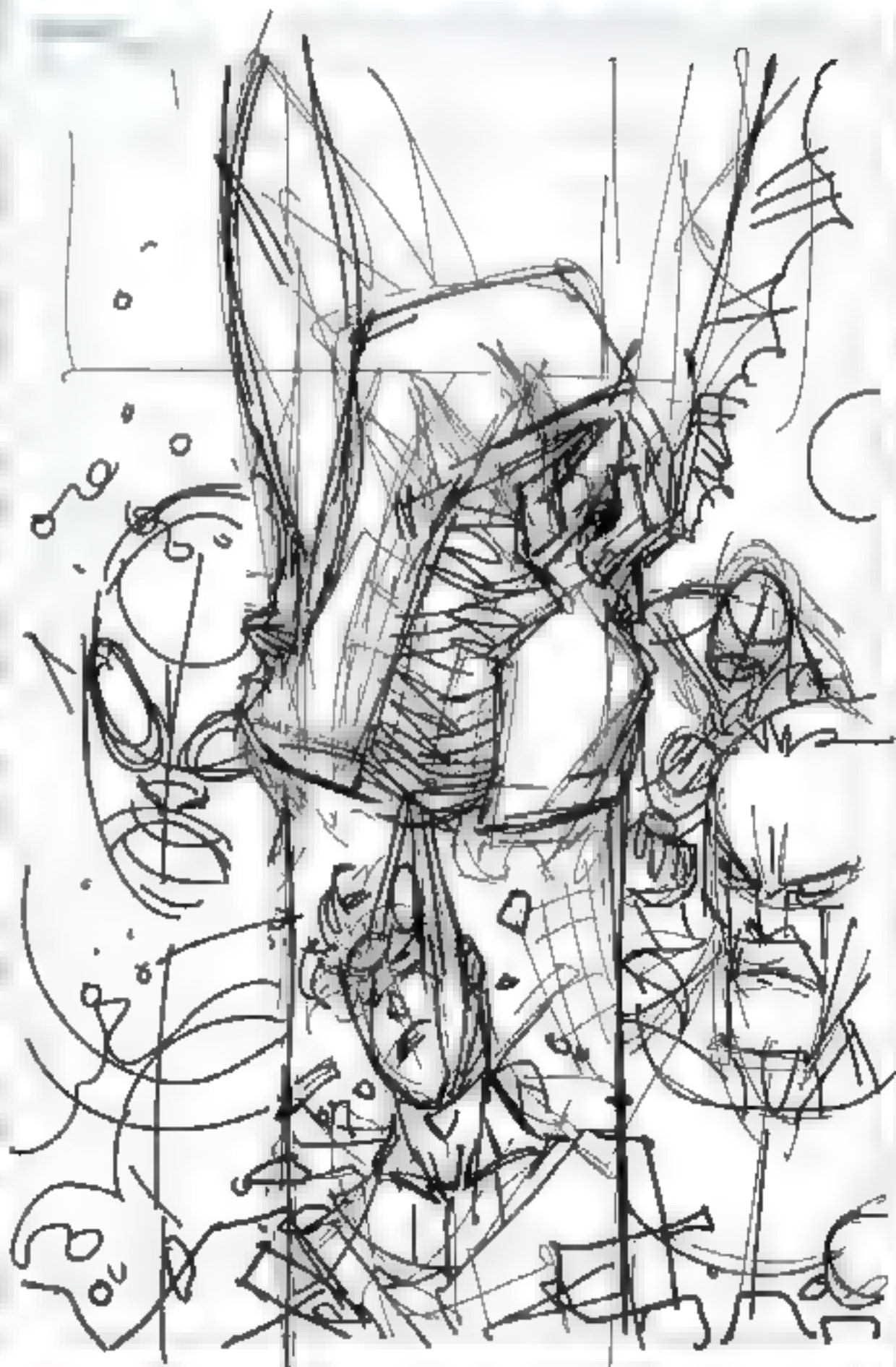
I'M SCREWING THIS UP. I SHOULDN'T BE DOING THIS NOW. YOU DESERVE WAY BETTER.

I DON'T EVEN HAVE A RING AND...





SKETCHBOOK

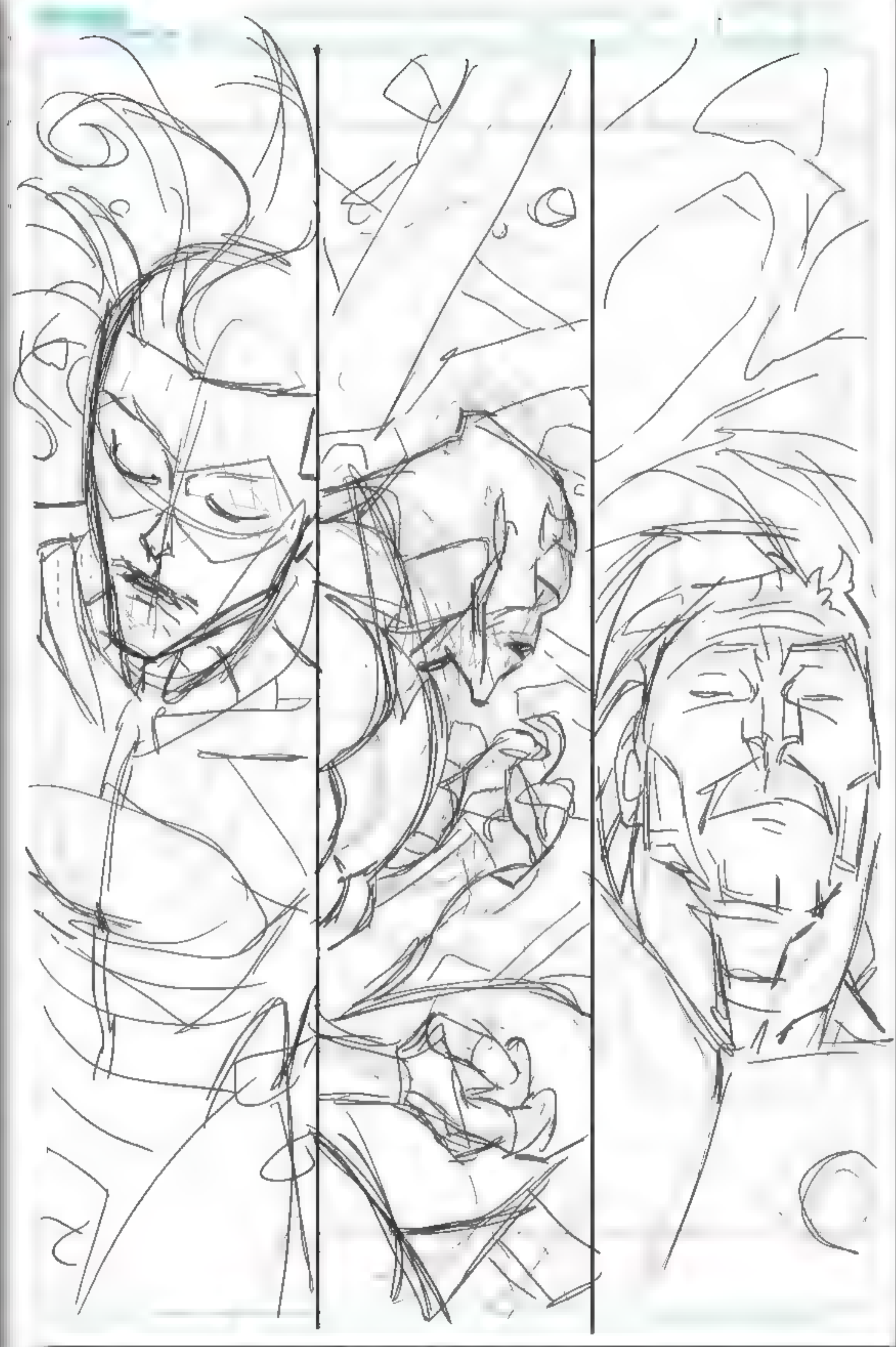
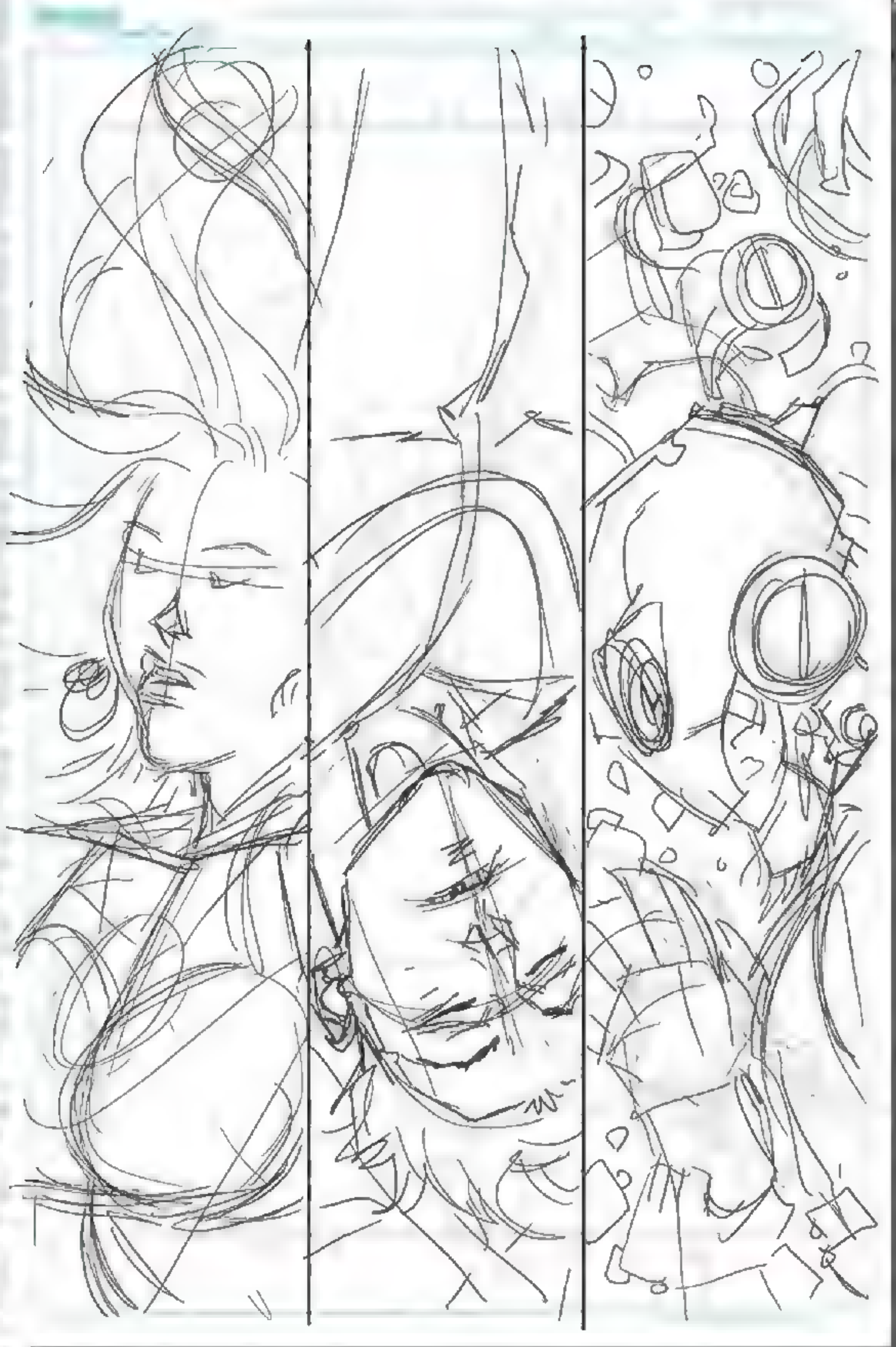


RYAN OTTLEY: So when this cover hit me, I was in a rush on a current issue to get it out the door, so I wanted to make it easy on myself and finish this cover in a day. The first two layouts I could have finished quickly, Robert didn't like the result and asked for a better one with full figures, so I did a new one which took much more time. Of course, I had to wait for the wounds on my back to heal from Robert's whip lashings. But eventually I turned in a cover we were all much happier with.

ROBERT KIRKMAN: I always feel like the wounds on your back make for a better comic. I feel like I'm not doing my job if they're allowed to heal before new ones are applied. It may not be a fun working process... but it's a productive one.

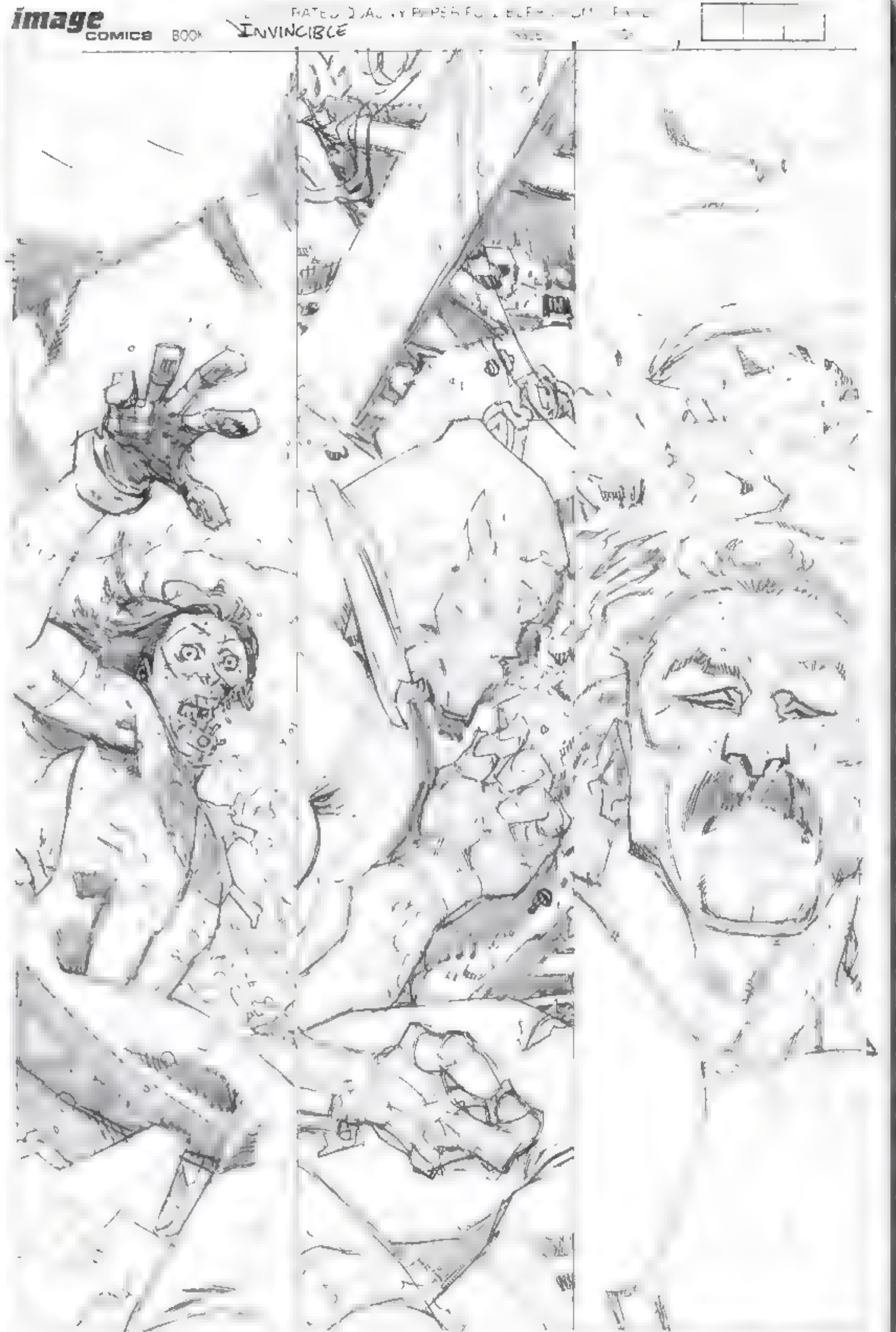






RYAN: These were drawn as teaser images to show the impact of issue #100. Eventually it was used for a variant cover for issue #99. You'll see the changes between the layout sketches and the finals. There were too many close-up images by each other, so I gave it a little variety and zoomed out for a few characters.





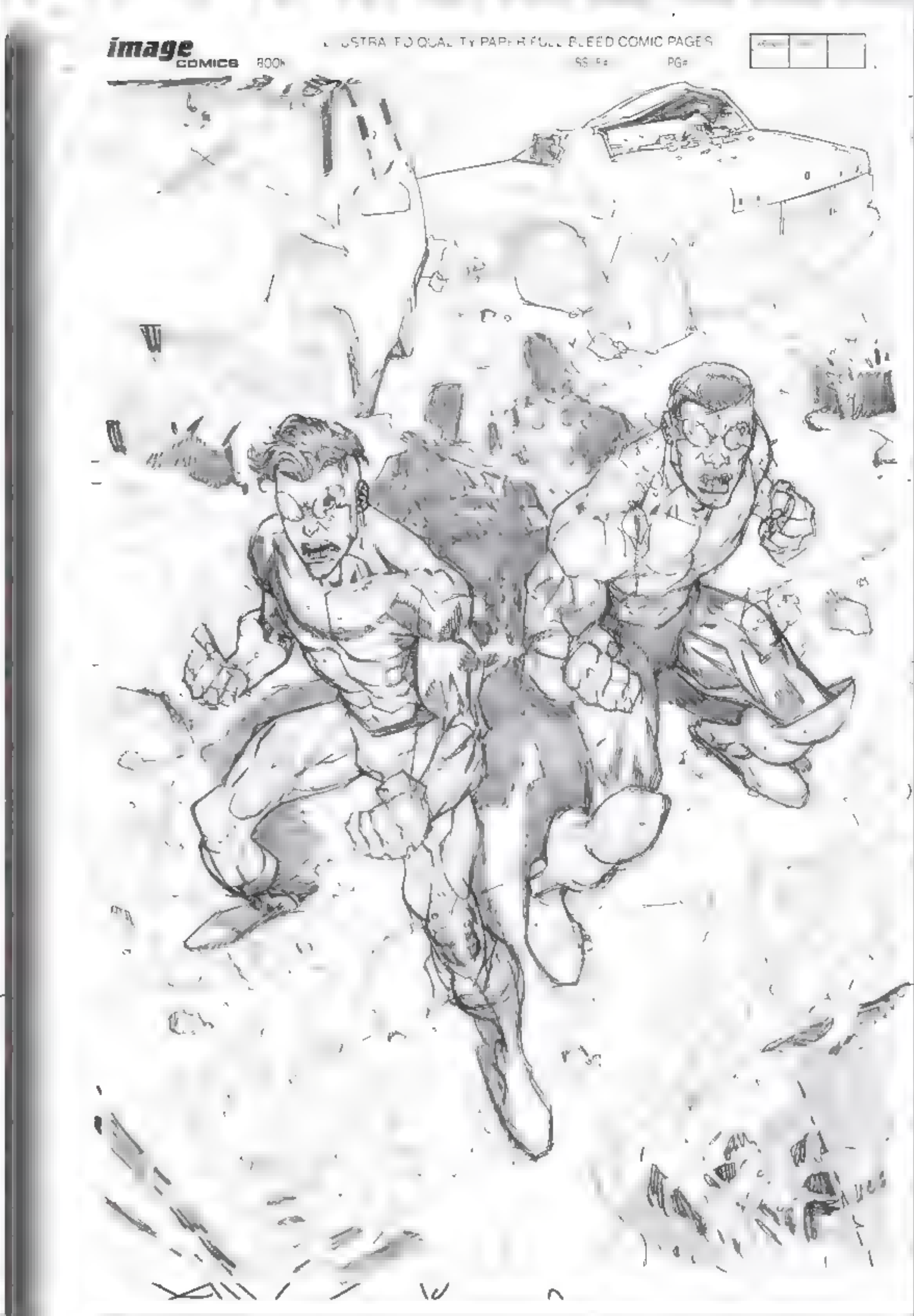
ROBERT: I really loved this thing. It's really cool when we have enough time (or decide to just make the time) to do completely original art just for marketing. This reminded me of the original ad for Youngblood #6, which I always thought was pretty cool.





RYAN: *So here is another cover I needed to do in a rush. Luckily Robert liked the layout so he spared the whip and let me do the cover, which I finished, layouts/pencils/inks, in a day. And a glorious day it was!*

ROBERT: I remember I had some stupid idea of this cover being from Zandale's POV as he looked down into a pool of blood on the ground and the cover would simply be an upside down reflection of him. I don't quite get what the blood is doing on the wall here, but it looked so cool I figured I'd let it go. It's a pretty great cover.



RYAN: Not my favorite cover. I overdid it, I made a few anatomy mistakes, it just feels cluttered to me. I mean there is tons of clutter and rubble and things on the page, I just mean it feels like I could have made better choices and a better composition and.... Blargh! I can't explain myself! Never mind, this is the best cover ever drawn by anyone ever!

ROBERT: Yeah, this cover blows. You suck.



RYAN: Ahhhh, the issue #99 cover! Let's just sit back and watch me struggle with poses on this one! It was quite the doozie.

ROBERT: I quite enjoy this cover. You should struggle with poses more often.

image
COMICS





RYAN: So Robert asked for a cover with a figure of Invincible surrounded by heads, kind of an homage to Spidey #100 and Savage Dragon #100. Lots of fun to do! It's kind of a no-no to have your main characters looking right off the page, but I've drawn him looking forward on so many covers, and for some reason I really liked that gesture line in the layout from his head down to his fist. I just didn't want to break that by having his head turned.

ROBERT: I let it go, but that was a mistake. He looks like he's smelling Rex and looking at Allen. Boo! It did look really good on that cake, though... but I think everything looks good on a cake.

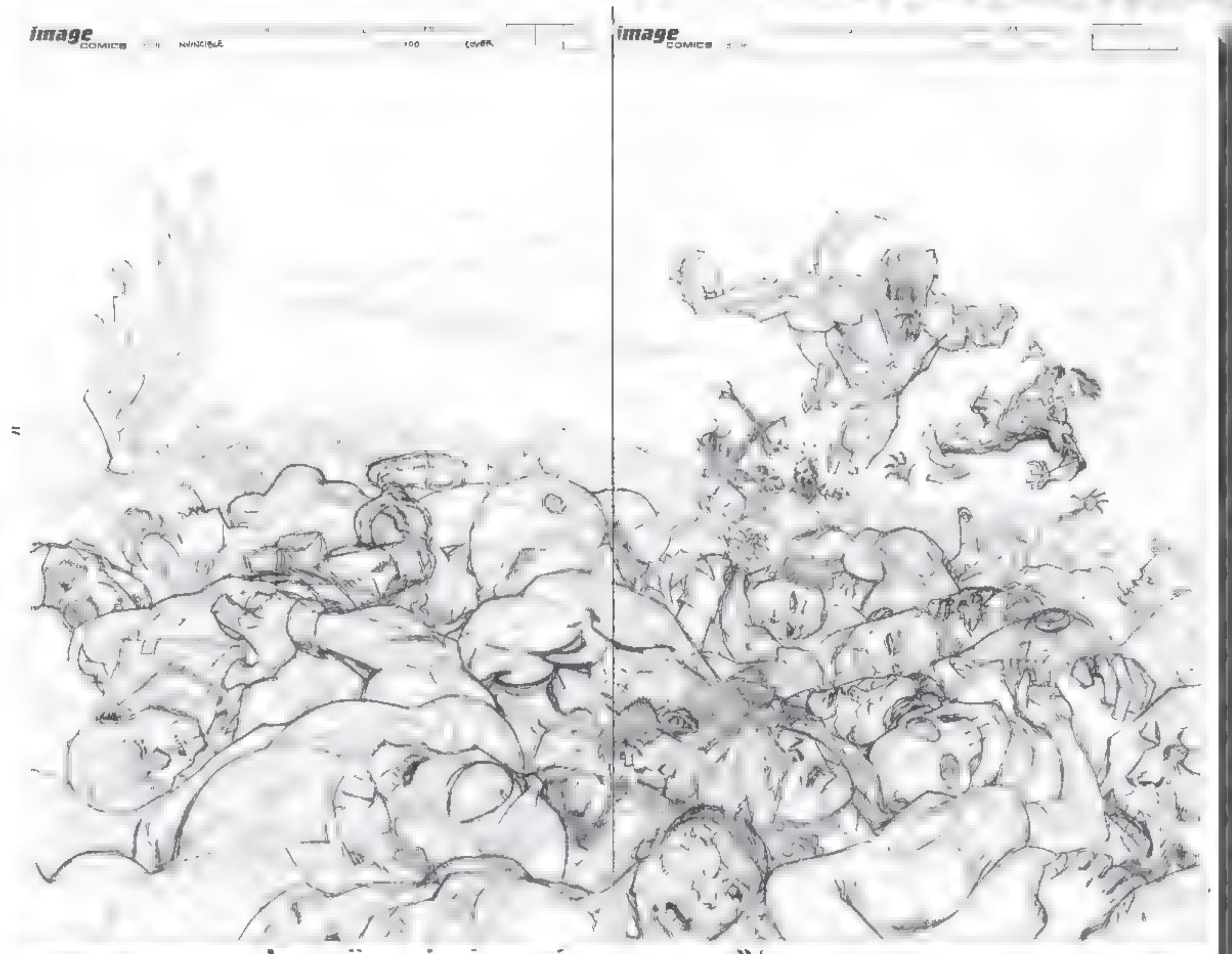
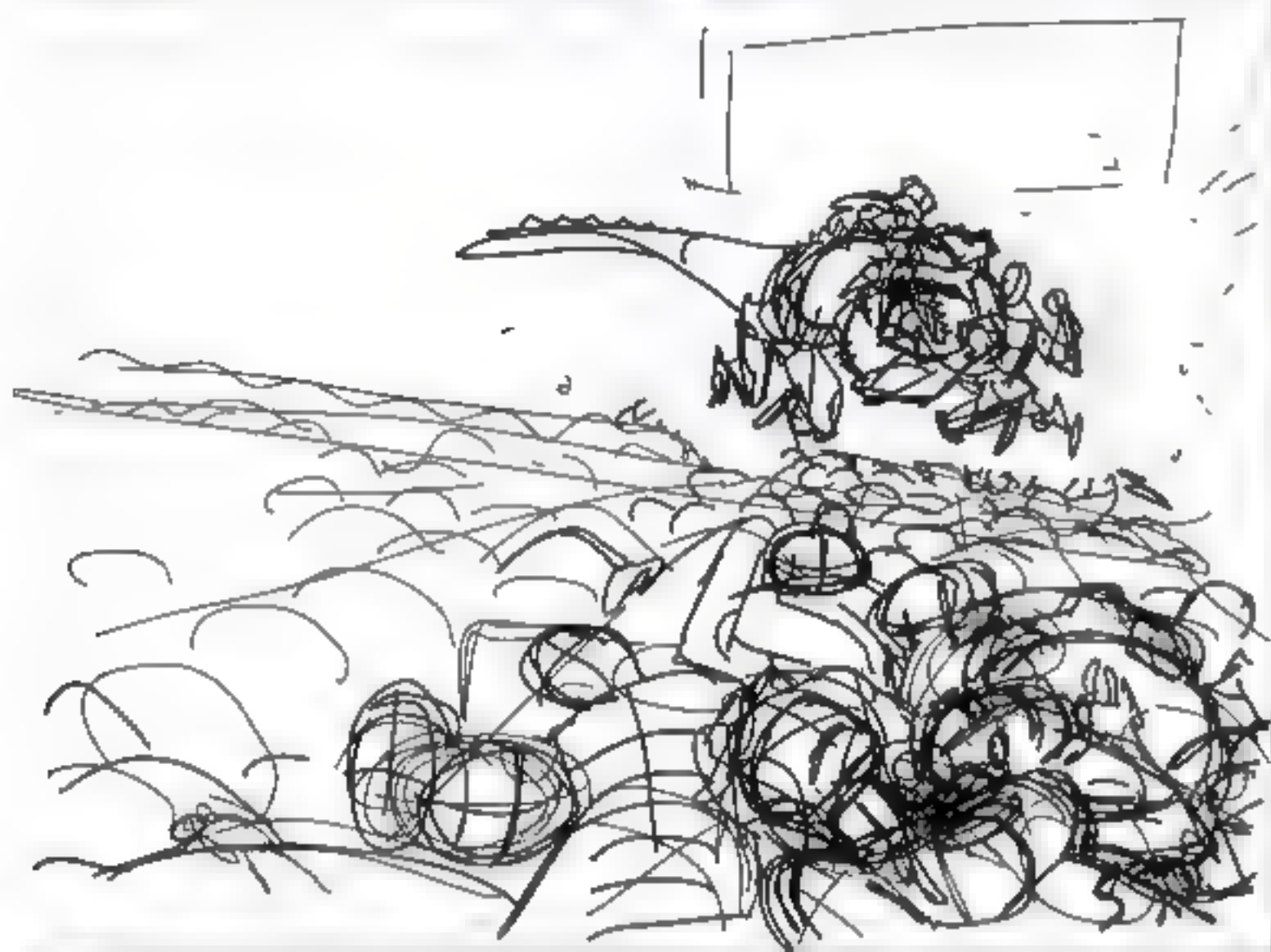
SEAN: To clarify, there was a #100 signing, and there was cake. And that cake was big and awesome.

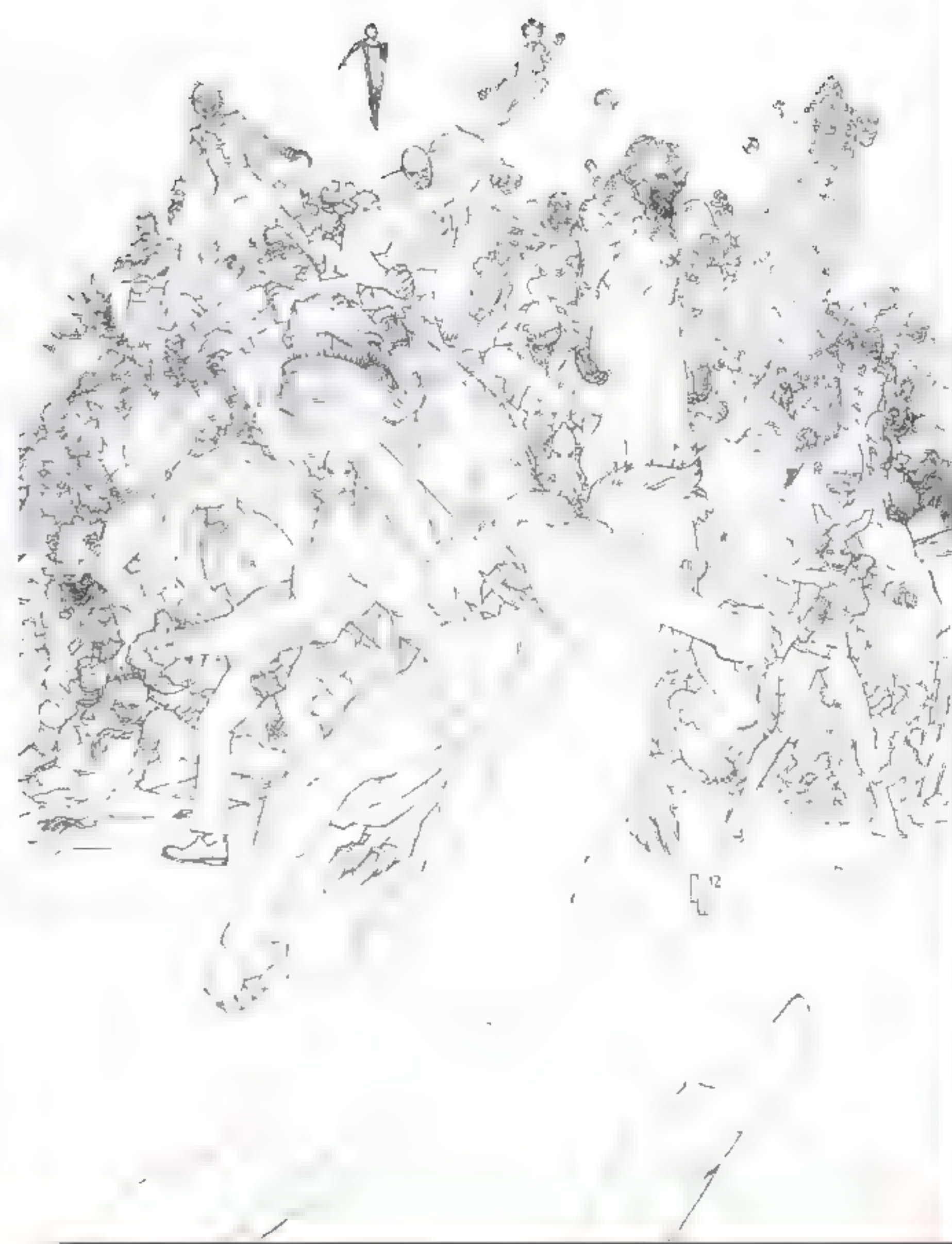
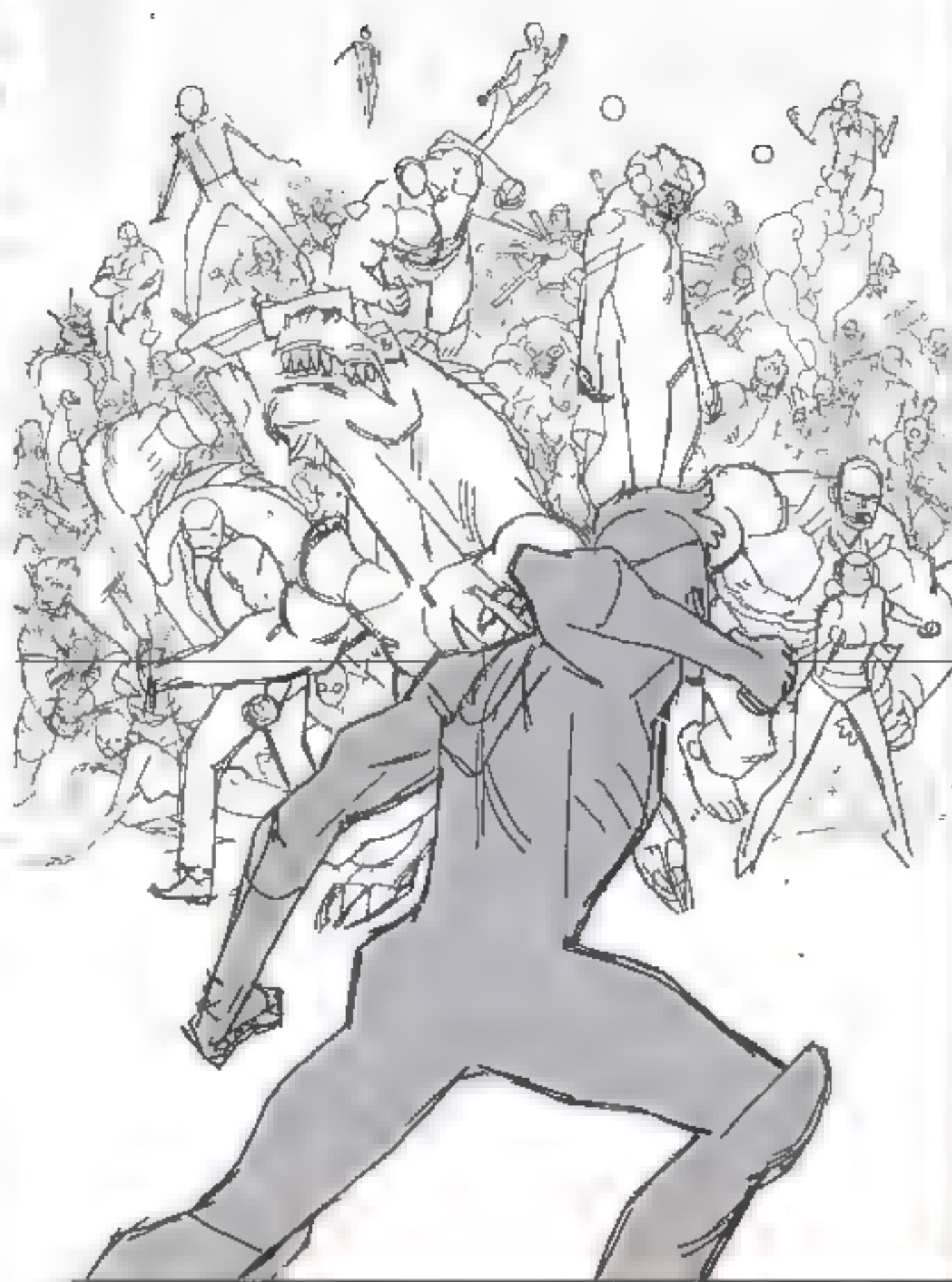




RYAN: I remember fighting Robert on this one a little bit. He loves those Erik Larsen fights where two characters are fighting and punching at the same time. He wanted that for this cover, it's what I did on issue #99 too, so I thought that would be redundant. And I figured we had ALL these characters dead on the ground, to have Dinosaurus laying in the finishing kill on Invincible adds to the OOMF of this cover. Makes it MORE dynamic and dire feeling and brings a nice "WTF" feeling to the viewer.

ROBERT: To be fair, those Larsen fights always look cool as hell. So shut up. This cover was also meant to be a homage to the wraparound cover of Walking Dead #100. The only difference is all the dead bodies on that cover were characters who were actually dead. We really should kill more characters in this book...





RYAN: *Damn Cory. This cover wins the best cover award. For any cover that's ever been drawn by anyone ever!*

ROBERT: I love that Cory will read that as sarcasm despite it being completely sincere. Cory actually didn't want to do a cover for this issue, and I sort of kind of made him. He wasn't too happy, but then he came up with the idea of reversing issue #1's cover to see all the villains he was fighting... it's just brilliant. I wish I could say it was my idea, but the fact is, a good majority of the good ideas on things Cory and I do together come from him. The guy is kind of brilliant. (Also not sarcasm, Cory.)





RYAN: *So sweet.*

ROBERT: It's always hard to do those few covers after an event where the main character could have died where you can't show that the main character actually lived... especially with the way we started issue #100. If you read that having SEEN the covers to #101 or #102 online and knew they had Mark on them... it would kind of ruin the story. Ryan always pulls it off though. This cover is dope.

image
COMICS

ILLUSTRATED QUALITY PAPER FULL BLEED COMIC PAGES

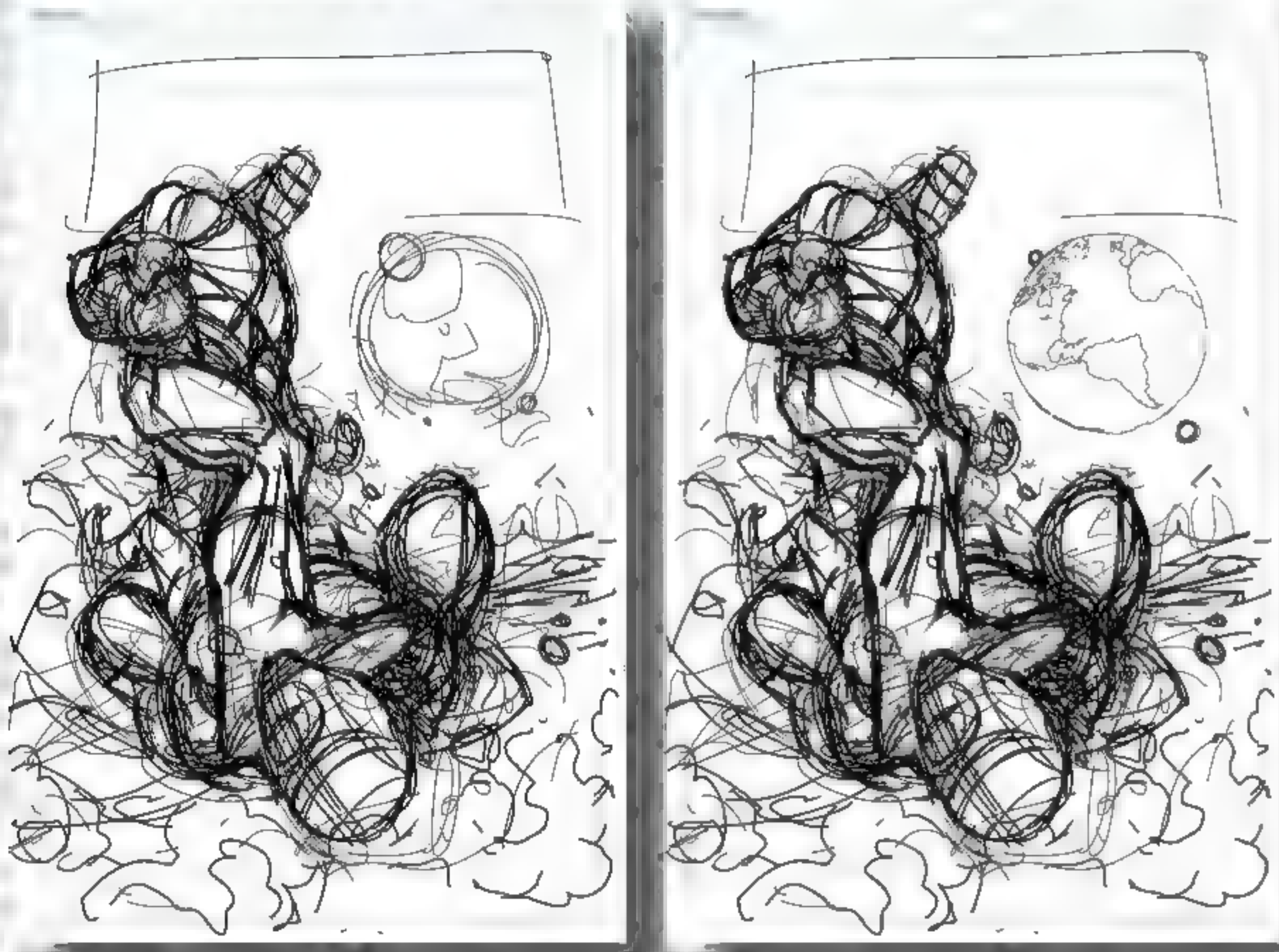
BOOK **INVINCIBLE**

ISSUE# **101**

PG# **COVER**

EDITOR: **JOHN** SLATS: **JOHN** CULLEN: **JOHN**

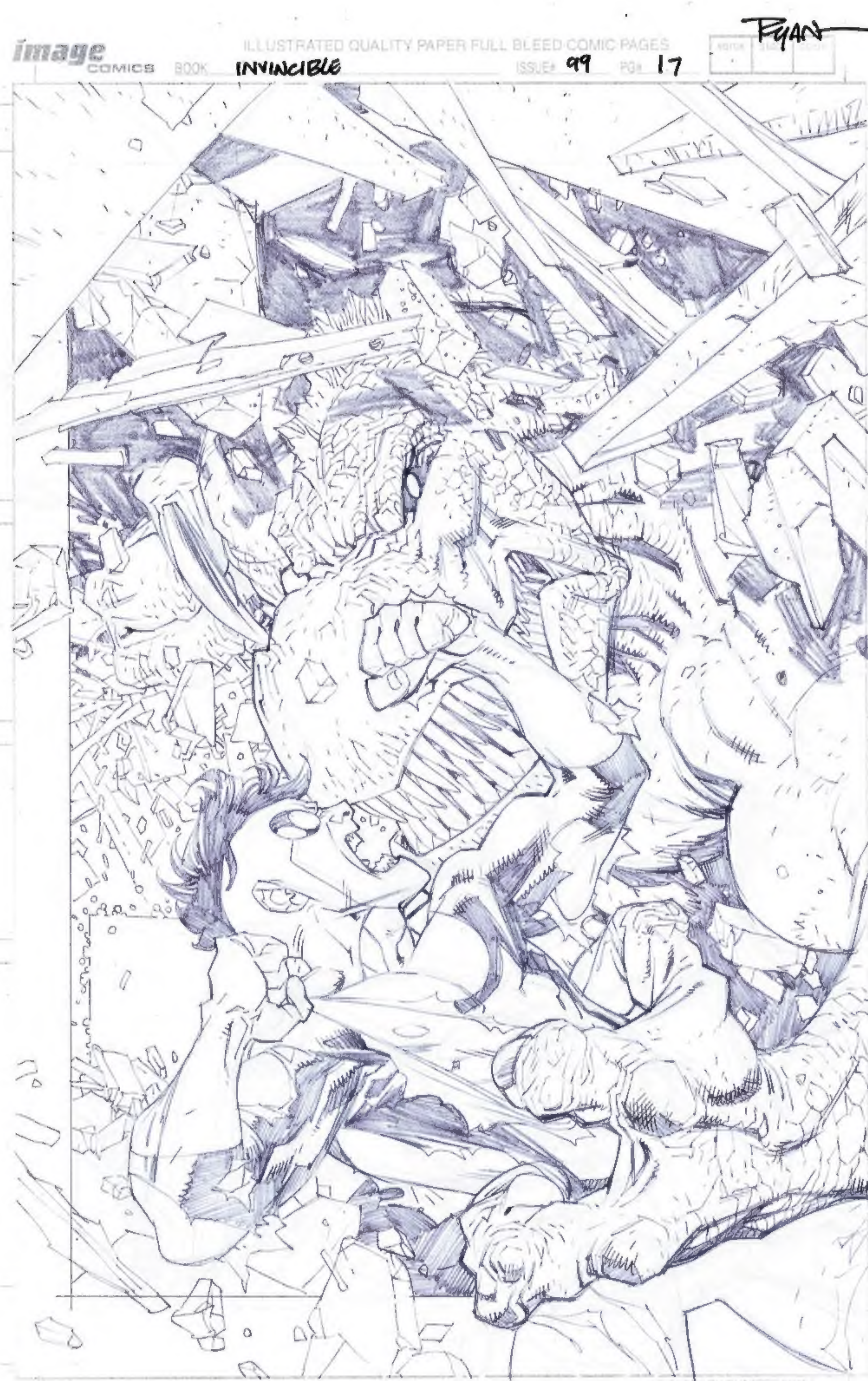




RYAN: FIGHT! Thragg versus Nolan! Who will win?! Def Thragg. Dude's a monster, I love drawing him.

ROBERT: And Thragg did technically win... or he would have... but he kind of didn't... technically.





RYAN: *Such a fun issue to draw, all splash pages, I would so do that again. Dinosaurus will be missed! He was one of my favorite characters to draw.*

ROBERT: We'll do another all splash page issue again... I promise... but Dinosaurus... he's pretty much gone forever.



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WOLF

